Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-028 *10 February 1995*

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Algeria, Libya Excluded From NATO 'Dialogue'

MM0902154895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 95 p 1

[Unattributable report: "NATO Seeking To Form Southern Front To Confront Fundamentalism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—NATO states have decided to initiate a dialogue with five North African and Middle Eastern states and to develop relations with them in the framework of confronting what NATO terms the "fundamentalist threat to Europe."

NATO sources have said that NATO has decided to hold a dialogue and cooperate with Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Israel, "with the aim of cooperating to prevent arms proliferation and confront the fundamentalist threat" to NATO's southern borders.

The NATO sources said that cooperation and consultations will be conducted with each country individually, and they could be expanded in the future to include other parties.

It has been noted that NATO's plans do not include Algeria. Libya too has not been included. The NATO sources said that—as a result of Spain's insistence—Mauritania was included on the list of the five states with which a dialogue is going to be initiated. Spain indicated that it could object to Israel's inclusion if NATO states did not agree to the inclusion of Mauritania.

NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said yesterday in press statements in London and Paris that fundamentalism poses the biggest post-Cold-War threat.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Holds News Conference on Talks With 'Arafat

TA0902122995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1117 GMT 9 Feb 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with domestic correspondents at the Erez checkpoint following his meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rabin] Differences of opinion emerged in today's meeting. Nevertheless, both we and the Palestinians reaffirmed our commitment to the Declaration of Principles, the Cairo agreement, and the continuation of the process. Naturally, the two sides differ in their perception of the situation and of what needs to be done to fulfill those commitments. As far as we are concerned, the primary and most dominant consideration is the security of Israel's citizens and of Israelis in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

As far as they are concerned, of course, the main issue is what they perceive as lack of progress in the political negotiations, certainly in view of the misery they have been experiencing in the wake of the closure. As we see it, the closure was imposed in order to secure our main goal, which is to uphold the security of Israel's citizens and of Israelis in the territories while pursuing this process.

The main disagreements today had to do with our different perceptions and emphases about the kind of practical action to be taken. As we see it, the continuation of the process will be determined by the following steps: The Palestinian Authority [PA] must take all the necessary steps to make sure that there is a single armed law-enforcing body in the PA; arms licenses should be issued to individuals—because it says so in the agreement—but weapons should not be carried and definitely not be used by any other element; measures should be taken in keeping with Chairman 'Arafat's announcement on the establishment of state security courts, but these should not operate as the existent courts do; measures must be taken against the elements that incite, organize, and activate terror.

Accordingly, we consented to the request to approve the entry of another 2,000 policemen from outside the PA—after we receive a list of the policemen who were recruited locally—in order to provide it with the tools and forces needed to safeguard security in the areas under its control.

Several issues were raised by the two sides. In view of the fact that we could not solve them today because of a lack of time and for other reasons, we decided to hold another meeting next week. If there are any questions, please go ahead.

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Can one speak of a total rupture? Have the contacts between the PLO and Israel run completely aground and now appear to have no future?

[Rabin] Absolutely not. The contacts will continue as early as this week. The various coordinating mechanisms set up between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinian police will continue their daily activities. For example, we hope that the DCO [not further specified] will receive the names of the new Palestinian police recruits today. The contacts, talks, and meetings will continue in order to prepare next week's meeting. On no account does this constitute a rift. It is a continuation of the negotiations in light of the difficulties that have cropped up.

[Tel Aviv Radio political correspondent Udi Segal] Mr. Prime Minister, did 'Arafat present to you the PA's accomplishments in fighting terrorism so far? Have you demanded that he take additional steps?

[Rabin] He presented some facts. He will make some of them public, if he so desires. He presented some data with regard to the foiling of terrorist attacks, including an incident last night involving a man who was apparently planning a suicide attack inside Israel.

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[Unidentified correspondent] What about the closure on the territories?

[Rabin] The closure will continue for the time being. Restrictions will be eased for specific sectors, and this has already been made public, with supplementary measures wherever required. As for the entry of Palestinian workers, the closure will continue. As for economic ties, the export of agricultural products to Israel and the import of cement and other goods from Israel —all this will be simplified and streamlined.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem] Mr. Prime Minister, the Palestinians say that security can be maintained while implementing the second stage of the Oslo agreement. Israel and the Palestinians disagree on this matter. What is your reaction to the Palestinian claim? I would also like to ask you whether it is true that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] promised the PA not to carry out any more terrorist attacks from the autonomous areas?

[Rabin] As for your first question, it is true that the Palestinians have made this assertion. I will also add that they pointed out that they continued the negotiations despite the serious terrorist attack at the Cave of the Patriarchs and went on to sign the Cairo agreement. Our position, however, is different. Therefore, disagreements surfaced.

[Ben-Menahem] Is there any agreement between the PA and Hamas?

[Rabin] I know nothing about this, nor am I authorized to speak on behalf of the PA with regard to their contacts with Palestinian elements inside the autonomous area.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen] Mr. Rabin, what about the release of Palestinian prisoners and the freeze on the discussions on the safe passage between the Gaza Strip and Jericho? When do you intend to raise this matter? Did you present any preconditions to 'Arafat with regard to the implementation of these two issues?

[Rabin] All these are part of the overall picture of security versus the demands for progress in the political sphere and demands with regard to the closure, including the implementation of those elements you mentioned that are included in the Cairo agreement on Gaza-Jericho First.

Beilin Calls Meeting With 'Arafat 'One of Best'

TA0902162595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondent Tamar Landau; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Landau] Mr. Beilin, you were party to today's unsuccessful meeting. What did we need it for?

[Beilin] I want to tell you that today's meeting was one of the best and most interesting meetings between us and the Palestinians that I have so far attended. The problem was almost entirely of a technical nature—although not entirely so—namely the fact that no joint news conference was held this time. Consequently, the meeting was seen to be unsuccessful, but in fact it was successful and important for both sides.

[Landau] Does this mean that the correspondents' impression is totally wrong and that the meeting was successful and interesting? Can you provide any details?

[Beilin] What I can say is, first, that the talks will continue. There will be another meeting; teams will continue to work; the foreign ministers and the PLO representatives will participate in a meeting in Washington next Sunday [12 February]; and the elections talks will continue in Cairo. The process is continuing intensively. Obviously, the fact that the closure was not lifted made it very difficult for the Palestinians to be pleased with the meeting, and this is apparently the main reason they did not attend the news conference.

[Landau] Mr. Beilin, this meeting was held in the aftermath of the Cairo summit which, despite all the historic significance attached to it, led to no practical progress in the process. Is it possible that the leaders on both sides are overeager to depict progress while the situation on the ground is the opposite?

[Beilin] Look, the question is: What is practical? As far as I am concerned, the Cairo meeting's being followed by the foreign ministers' meeting in Washington is a very practical thing. Also, in today's meeting a series of issues were concluded—it was not merely a courtesy call. We could learn a lot about what is happening on the other side, in terms of both their successes and their failures. For us the important thing is terror prevention, and in this respect today's meeting was a successful continuation of the process. I certainly believe we are proceeding in the right—albeit difficult and complicated—road toward peace with the Palestinians, from which there is no return.

[Landau] The most we can expect, then, is the continuation of the meetings?

[Beilin] We can expect that, as well as changes on the ground which I believe will occur in the next few days.

[Landau] Who can guarantee that next week's meeting will be more fruitful than today's meeting?

[Beilin] The common desire of both sides and the understanding that they have no other alternative to peace and understanding, despite all the difficulties.

[Landau] Nevertheless, the other side describes the situation as a crisis, whereas you do not.

[Beilin] True. Perhaps they have a point, because we decided not to lift the closure—rather to wait a while longer. From their viewpoint the closure is undoubtedly creating great difficulties in their daily lives. It is possible

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that from their viewpoint the problem seems graver. We, however, cannot lift the closure until we are convinced that all the efforts have been made to minimize the danger of terrorism to Israelis as much as possible. [passage omitted]

EU Envoys Warn of Danger to Talks After Erez Failure

NC0902221495 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 9 Feb 95

[By Henri Mamarbachi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Feb 9 (AFP)—European Union envoys warned here Thursday [9 February] after talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat that the peace process was in danger and urged them to push ahead.

"Marking time is dangerous and the only way to succeed is to go forward," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told a press conference, after a failed 'Arafat-Rabin summit at the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza.

"The process is in serious difficulty," Juppe said, adding that he felt in his own meeting with 'Arafat that tension between the two sides was high.

"We understand that Israel is making security its top priority, and we took note of the measures undertaken by the Palestinian Authority in this respect," the minister said.

The Palestinians "must take measures to fight against terrorism but we can not impose the obligation to achieve results on them," he said, adding Israel's closure of the territories was deepening the Palestinians" economic woes.

Earlier in autonomous Gaza City, after a row over a visit to PLO offices in Jerusalem, Juppe encouraged 'Arafat to forge ahead with the peace process at a "very critical time."

"You must continue, Mr. President," said the minister at the head of a delegation of EU envoys. "This needs courage ... We know you have it, we are at your side."

'Arafat refused to comment on the summit with Rabin earlier in the day that ended in disarray with an Israeli refusal to lift the closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, in force since a bombing last month which killed 21 Israelis.

The PLO leader added that he was "pragmatic" about the outcome of a new summit set for next week, but hinted that the negotiations with Israel were being endangered.

"I did not propose a halt in talks. But if the situation requires it, we will propose such a pause," he said.

'Arafat said he had accepted an EU invitation to attend a conference in Barcelona next September.

Juppe was accompanied by European Commission vice president Manuel Martin of Spain, German foreign affairs secretary Hans Von Ploetz and Spain's secretary of state for EU affairs Carlos Westendrop.

Earlier on Thursday, the envoys caused a storm when they went ahead and met Palestinian officials at the de facto PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, despite Israeli protests and court action to try to block the talks.

But they kept a low profile after an hour with the PLO's West Bank leader Faysal al-Huseyni at Orient House.

The Supreme Court threw out a bid by West Bank settlers to halt the meeting in annexed East Jerusalem based on new legislation which outlaws political activity by the Palestinian Authority in the disputed city.

Settlers protested outside Orient House, officially the headquarters of Palestinian delegations to Middle East peace talks. Demonstrators shouted "German pig, out" and called al-Huseyni "Hitler".

The Israeli government voiced displeasure at the meeting, but decided not to try to stop it.

The European Union troika arrived in Israel on Wednesday from Syria where they met President Hafiz al-Asad as part of a Middle East tour. On Friday they head for Lebanon.

Israeli Labor Party Official Says Peace 'Possible'

JN0802151995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nisim Zvili, secretary general of the Israeli Labor Party, has said that it is possible to reach a peaceful solution to the confrontation between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. Speaking to reporters during his visit to the Voice of Palestine Radio, Zvili said that those who believe in the possibility of coexistence should contribute to fighting those who try to destroy peace.

Zvili and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the National Authority, had earlier visited the city of Jericho. During the visit, Zvili and the accompanying delegation met with Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the Palestinian Police Force, and Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of protective security. He visited the headquarters of the Voice of Palestine and met with officials and the editorial staff.

Answering reporters' questions, Zvili said: I say to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to all those who believe in peace, that it is possible to peacefully settle the confrontation between the two peoples. Assistance must be extended to realize rapprochement between the two peoples and to fight extremists who seek to wreck peace. A chance must be given to achieve actual rapprochement to build confidence between the two peoples. We must look forward to the future for the sake of our children, grandchildren, and

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the future generations to create a place for Palestinians, one beside the other, and not at the expense of others in this region. After reaching this situation—a situation in which the two peoples will live in security and peace—we can realize the real fruits of peace.

Answering a question on recent violent operations and attacks he said: We will continue to fight extremist groups and terrorism with all possible means. We will also continue to urge the Palestinian friends who believe in peace to realize that they are committed to act as active partners in the battle against terrorism and terrorist groups, which threaten Israel and the Israelis and the Palestine dream alike.

If we manage to reach a situation in which the two peoples work to eradicate terrorism from their ranks and fight it with determination, we would see the security situation improve, the atmosphere relax, and further political progress made. We would also see the dream in which we believe realized. [passage omitted]

Musa, Peres To Meet in Washington Before 4-Way Talks

NC1002080795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 10 Feb (MENA)—MENA's correspondent in Washington learned today from informed sources in Washington that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will hold a bilateral meeting on Sunday [12 February] with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The sources expect discussions during this meeting to revolve around the obstacles to Palestinian-Israeli talks, obstacles that remain after the two sides failed to realize any progress during the two sessions held over the past two days between the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Cairo, then between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday.

The sources said the two ministers will also discuss developments in the peace process and how to move them forward, as well as efforts to break the deadlock on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The 'Amr Musa-Shim'on Peres meeting will take place a short time before the quadripartite meeting hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher involving the foreign ministers of the four sides participating in the Cairo summit on 2 February. This meeting is expected to be held on Sunday afternoon.

Foreign Minister Musa will arrive in Washington tomorrow on a four-day visit to the United States, while the Israeli foreign minister concludes a visit to the U.S. capital on Sunday. Peres will leave Washington after taking part in the ministerial meeting of the Cairo summit parties, which is expected to issue a statement confirming adherence to the peace process.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League To Propose Draft Treaty on Weapons

NC1002110295 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 10 (AFP)—The Arab League will propose a draft treaty in March aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in the Middle East, a senior official said Friday [10 February].

"At the Arab League's ministerial meeting set for March 22, Arab states will examine a draft convention to make the Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction," the League's assistant secretary general, 'Adnan 'Umran, told AFP.

"Once adopted by the League, the draft convention will be submitted to the United Nations," 'Umran said.

"It will then be up to the United Nations to study the means to force all the countries of the region—without any exception—to promise to abide by this convention," he added.

"The Arab countries will only sign the treaty if Israel does," he said.

"This is the same position that the Arab countries should adopt at the League's ministerial meeting on signing the convention on extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," scheduled for April and May in New York, he said.

"The draft convention was developed by Egypt and the Arab League.

"This Arab initiative will be examined March 14-15 at a committee meeting of 14 member states, formed by the League, before submitting it to the ministerial meeting on March 22."

Israel and Egypt have been fighting a war of words over Egypt's threat not to renew its adherence to the NPT if Israel fails to sign on for the first time in April-May.

Claes Sees Fundamentalism as 'Worthy Enemy' for NATO

MM0902160095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p15

[Article by Joseph Samahah: "Threat and Destruction Call"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is not afraid of being ridiculed because he knows that the harm in such a case would not be fatal. So he makes statements maintaining that the talk about Israeli nuclear weapons is "just rumors."

When the only reaction to that was ridicule, he shifted to the second line of defense and spoke about "confusion"

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regarding these weapons and the need to keep them as a deterrent. Peres, the real father of the Israeli nuclear program, had to name the parties that were supposed to be deterred. So he named states "such as Iran, Iraq, and Libya, which could destroy Israel." There he undoubtedly reached the lowest point of dramatic failure, appearing to be making fun of himself or of his listeners. One would certainly have to be extremely insolent to claim that Libya, which was defeated in Chad, was capable of destroying the state of Israel, or to see that as a convincing justification for having a nuclear arsenal. We and Peres do not seem to be living in the same region nor to have the same logic, otherwise he would not have dared to tell such a big lie about possible destruction of Israel by states which are either unarmed, engaged in upstaging tactics, or under a difficult siege.

Peres could perhaps be forgiven so long as that is the general mood and so long as he is not sufficiently aware of the receding hostility to Israel, "that small state besieged from all sides." But could U.S. President Bill Clinton be forgiven? In a message to Congress explaining Washington's position on Libya, he said that "the Libyan Government's policy and actions still pose an unusual threat to U.S. foreign policy and national security." Is that reasonable? The only superpower in the world feels that its entire foreign policy and its national security, no less, are unusually threatened by Libya! The jokes about the elephant and the gnat are closer to reality than that very official message on which policies, alliances, and budgets are based.

To discern the enormous difference between that fictional world suggested by Peres and Clinton and the real world, we should recall the statement made by Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the same period. The man was commenting on the earthquake which hit a Japanese city against all geological forecasts, and said that it was in answer to his prayers against Japan which had placed itself at the service of the American Satan.

That is a "fantasy" warranting ridicule for its composer and pity for the Libyans and Arabs because he is one of their rulers, but it certainly does not warrant deterrence of nuclear weapons magnitude nor a policy confusing a hallucination with an "unusual threat" to U.S. national security.

As if all that is not enough, NATO Secretary General Willy Claes has cast his stone in this storm and decided, finally, that he has found an enemy to that organization as dangerous as the Warsaw Pact: Islamic fundamentalism. One should bear in mind what NATO means in terms of states, armies, arms, joint commands, bases throughout the world, and immeasurable military capabilities. The problem is that it has no enemies and it does not seem possible in the foreseeable future that any capabilities, however big, could be mustered to deserve to be regarded as a "worthy enemy." And yet, the secretary general trembles. All that need be added to the "Israeli destruction threat," "the threat to U.S. security," and "fundamentalism" is that lethal weapon of "al-Qadhdhafi's prayers" for one to be faced with this most delicate balance of powers in the Middle East and...the world!

Cairo Summit Cannot Dispel 'Israeli Dilemma'

MM0802120695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p15

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "An Israeli Dilemma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the final analysis, the Cairo summit was held to support Yitzhaq Rabin's government's efforts to ensure success of the peace process, just as the Alexandria summit before it was held to support Syria in its efforts to achieve an honorable peace. Clearly, peace is in trouble and will continue to be in trouble because all parties, especially Israel, have reached a stage which requires decisiveness. It is also clear that the peace process cannot make real progress unless real progress is made in the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Any delay or procrastination would immediately reflect on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and on the Syrian (and Lebanese) tracks.

Rabin's government needed an event like the quadripartite summit because of the problems it is having internally in relation to the peace requirements. Perhaps the summit told Rabin and his minister Shim'on Peres what they were supposed to hear about Israel's dallying on various pretexts when it comes to honoring commitments. The summit agreed to take firm positions on violence, extremism, and terrorism in order to reassure the Israeli side. What is even more important than that is that the Israelis, and the Americans, should prove that they made an accurate assessment of the predicament in order to be able to identify the ways of dealing with it seriously.

It is not good enough for Israel to use its military might to dictate to the Palestinian Authority and ask it to do what Israel itself failed to do in decades of occupation. "Terrorism," if that is the correct term, was born and flourished under the occupation, as a reaction to it. That is a known and profound fact and there is no need to deny it or blame some other party for it, whoever it may be. If Israel does not wish to acknowledge the Palestinians' right to resistance, that is its own affair. There is also an American mistake there because the United States has chosen to go along with Israel on that, without any sense or logic. Had the Oslo agreement, despite its flaws and shortcomings, been implemented with some degree of genuine peaceful spirit and a tempo denoting a sincere quest for peace, the thrust of violent resistance would have been weakened and all groups and political factions of Palestinian society would have been motivated to embrace the peace process.

It is nothing new to say that what has been done so far for the promotion of peace needs correction and rectification. The new permanent fact and daily phenomenon is that the Israelis and the Americans want to add more

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mistakes to the mistakes already committed in the signed agreements. Furthermore, they want the Arabs to resort to repression to smother any reaction to these mistakes. But peace, realistically and futuristically, must surely mean the end of repression, be it Israeli or Arab, otherwise it would be a threatened peace.

There is no harm in assuming that the Israelis (and the Americans) will in the end understand the peace requirements which they must respect but that would be a risky bet if the Israelis do not learn from the current predicament that the time for what they call "concessions" has arrived and that any failure to do so would torpedo everything that has been achieved. Peace with continued building of settlements is inconceivable just as it is inconceivable to regard the Oslo formula as the only possible formula without considering amending it. There can be no serious nogotiations and initiation of the implementation of the next phase of the agreement while the doors between Israel and the Palestinian regions are close. And, of course, peace cannot be established Rabin's way through hesitation, bargaining, and procrastination for fear of upsetting the electorate. There is a serious Israeli dilemma which no quadripartite summit lights can dispel.

Cairo Summit Seen as 'Gift' to Fundamentalists

MM0802162095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4-5 Feb 95 p1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "A Valuable Gift to the Fundamentalists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The only success achieved by the Cairo quadripartite summit conference concluded Thursday [2 February] morning was that it increased the sense of frustration and dashed all the hopes that had been pinned on the Alexandria summit for repairing the fault and saving what could be saved of this nation's honor and cultural heritage, nearly blown away by the peace process.

To sum it up very briefly, the quadripartite summit failed in everything it tried to do. The only beneficiary was Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who participated in such a summit for the first time in a legitimate and natural manner and came out without making a single concession, not even a little one for his hosts and new allies.

If Egypt with all its weight and President Husni Mubarak's leadership, and if a summit including President Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan could not persuade Rabin to end the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and release the Palestinian detainees, there can be no hope left for the current peace process and participants in it.

Rabin went to that summit with one sole aim: To force the Palestinian president to ignite a civil war and to fiercely liquidate the Islamic hardliners, or else he would not withdraw his forces from the West Bank and would not enlarge the autonomy but rather expand the settlements and the Jewish quarters in East Jerusalem. We thank God that President 'Arafat resisted Rabin's pressure in this connection and refused to cross the red lines, otherwise the results would have been equally tragic. What he was offered did not deserve one drop of Palestinian blood.

We had expected the summit to tackle Islamic extremism with modern measures, addressing it and its causes in a scientific way that would boost the peace process and win back those who had abandoned it in despair and disgust, but that did not happen. So why should the Palestinians not become extremists and look forward to the hereafter, so long as their current life is full of insults, colonialist terrorism, and permanent denial of all work opportunities?

Whoever wants to tackle the hardline Islamists should not provoke them by inviting Rabin to a Ramadan fast-breaking banquest, for he is the one who has closed al-Aqsa mosque and Jerusalem to worshippers, starved over 2.5 million Palestinians with almost permanent closure policies, and denied 6,000 Palestinian detainees freedom and the opportunity to spend this holy month with their children and families.

Excessive hospitality to Rabin is not the ideal way of forcing him to make concessions that would end the peace process deadlock. The man reached power through the ballot boxes and not through a historic assassination incident or a military coup, and, therefore, he is governed by all the democratic factors such as election programs, parliamentary control, and delicate coalition calculations. Suffice it to say that his majority in the Knesset is not more than two votes.

The Alexandria tripartite summit, had it been enlarged and not abandoned with astounding record speed, would have constituted a rare hope for mending the anomaly in the current Arab situation and rectifying the peace process. However, those who had criticized Rabin's visit to the Sultanate of Oman and held a summit to block such visits to other [Arab] countries have now set a dangerous precedent by becoming partners in a new alliance to reshape the region and divide it even more.

The best gift to extremism is the failure of the Cairo summit, burying the peace process in Gaza's quicksand, treating Islamic fundamentalism as the sole enemy, and entering into an alliance against it with the real enemy. The region is entering a phase of bloody chaos and violent operations that would make all past operations look amateurish. God knows.

Islamic Affairs

Mubarak Remarks on Muslim Brotherhood Criticized

NC0902154295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p 12

[From "The Natives" column by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus': "In Defense of the Muslim Brotherhood"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] I did not believe my eyes when I read the president of the republic's attack against the Islamic current in general and the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in particular. Public opinion is used to the president's criticism of these people. But what he said about them this time shocked me, simply because it is unbelievable that these words should come from President Mubarak. In an interview with the American magazine THE NEW YORKER, the president criticized the Islamist hardliners and the MB sharply and then described them, and I quote, as "nothing but a bunch of professional belly dancers and drummers in a wedding procession." It was these last words that made me ponder for a while, since they are absolutely not objective. There are two possibilities here. The first is that the words were invented by the American magazine, in which case I demand an official retraction, because unobjective talk about "belly dancers and drummers in a wedding procession" appeals neither to American or Egyptian public opinion. Such expressions put the president in a bad light in the eyes of the world.

The second possibility is that the president actually said that. In that case, it was a slip of the tongue he should not have made to the American magazine. Words like "belly dancers and drummers at a wedding procession" leave the door wide open to criticism of the president abroad by any foreigner who reads them. The president's aides should quickly have drawn his attention to his error.

I have known the Muslim Brothers for years, since I worked for AL-DA'WAH magazine, their mouthpiece that was founded in 1956. I came into close contact with their leading cadres through my position as a journalist and greatly admired their ethics and the principles they advocated. I was touched most of all by their late guide 'Umar al-Tilmisani, may God's mercy be on him. He was not an eloquent orator or professional politician; he was an affectionate, modest, forgiving, and kind-hearted father whose company was pleasing. He was a magnificent Islamic model for contemporary Muslims. His most distinctive feature was his good every-day conduct in an age when ethics are wasted. In his company, I met great and unique men. Some of those have departed our mortal world—such as Hajj Salih 'Ashmawi, martyr Kamal al-Sananiri, Jamal Fawzi, Engineer Muhammad Salim, and Jabir Rizq—and others keep up their message as mujahidin—such as the present guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr and his deputy Mustafa Mashhur, Ahmad Hasanayn, Dr. Ahmad al-Malat, Muhammad Mahdi 'Akif, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Sayf-al- Islam Hasan al-Banna, Ibrahim Sharaf, and many others.

I won't forget my colleagues as young men, like Dr. 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, Engineer Abu-al-'Ula Madi, and Dr. 'Isam al- 'Uryan, who is in jail with a group of Muslim young men whose innocence is certain. The ruling authority accuses the MB of conspiring against the regime and supporting terrorism. The accusation was repeated frequently in the past few years, but I have conclusive evidence to refute this accusation. The evidence is that our just judiciary has not condemned anyone belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, not even once since they resumed public activity in the era of President Anwar al-Sadat—that is, for more than 20 years. All the accusations leveled at them over these years have been "empty" and were never admissible in court. The authority's fight with the MB is certainly a grave loss for Islam and the homeland.

Conflict Within Brotherhood, Elections Preparation Seen

NC1002090095 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 6 Feb 95 pp 20-21

[Report by Ibrahim Khalil]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In one week the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group has witnessed radical changes, both within the Guidance Bureau and the Constituent Council [al-hay'ah al- ta'sisiyah], in an attempt to bring fresh blood into the group and appease the youth, who have played a leading role within the group. The youth are now demanding leading positions in the group, particularly since the role of many of the current leaders has come to an end, through age or sickness.

At the forefront of these positions is the job of general guide, which is now occupied by Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, who is sick. For the past few months the younger generation has been calling for rebuilding and restructuring the group's bodies from A to Z. This topic was a subject of debate by members of the Guidance Bureau, who sought to preserve the gains of the older generation and tried to build a solid organizational structure for the group to face the challenges of the coming stage, when elections will be held in various professional associations and elections for the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly will be staged later this year. A committee had to be set up to restructure the group in every area, neighborhood, district, and city and to set up a consultative council for each government so that a Guidance Bureau could be elected. This would pave the way for electing a general guide, who, according to group tradition, must be obeyed.

It is among the established rules of the Brotherhood to select the general guide from among the members of the Guidance Bureau, which is the group's political bureau, and the selection must be made by the Constituent Council (the first generation of Brotherhood members). It has become a traditional requirement for the general guide to have a history in jihad, which can be determined by the number of years he has spent in jail, the number of times he has collided with the government, and the magnitude of his international relations. Another requirement implicitly agreed upon is that the general guide must be the eldest member of the group. For that purpose, three of the group's eldest members are nominated and the general guide is chosen from among them. The current guide, Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, has been chosen according to this rule. He is over 80, shows signs of old

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age, and has difficulty in pronouncing words and in comprehension. He was born in Manfalut in 1913. He has been a member of the Guidance Bureau since 1954. He comes from a rich and very strong family in the town. He owns 70 feddans of land; his father left 300 feddans to his sons. The land was twice placed under sequestration. Abu-al-Nasr has two boys and a girl. The first boy is a doctor, Hasan, while the second runs his father's property, having obtained a university degree from Yemen. The general guide, because he has difficulty moving and has problems associated with old age, now lives permanently in his prestigious palace in Manfalut. This has made it difficult for him to run the group's affairs. A group of Guidance Bureau members, known as the sound-minded group, was set up, comprising Ahmad al-Malat, Mustafa Mashhur, and Ma'mun al-Hudayni, to run the Brotherhood's affairs until a new guide is chosen. But members of this group are in conflict. Dr. Ahmad al-Malat, a former director of the al-Munirah Hospital, believes he deserves more than anyone to be the guide, since he is the first deputy guide and the eldest member of the Guidance Bureau. He is backed by some bureau members from the first generation as well as some elderly members from the governorates. Mustafa Mashhur, who is now practically the acting guide, also has an eye on the job, after satisfying the youths by appointing young elements from his supporters to various positions in the governorates. But settling this issue requires the opinion of the members abroad, chief among them Sa'id Ramadan, son-in-law of [Brotherhood founder] Hasan al-Banna, director of the Islamic Center in Munich, and member of the Guidance Bureau.

The disagreement over setting the Brotherhood house in order is coupled with fears that the current guide could die at any moment. This has sparked another conflict within the group over membership of the Guidance Bureau. This conflict is between the middle generation of members, aged 60 and over, and the younger generation, particularly some leading figures in the professional associations, who earnestly seek to join the Guidance Bureau to reorganize the group on modern and scientific bases. Leading this trend is Lawyer Kamal 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a member of the Guidance Bureau, who is described as the philosopher of the group. He has already started this process. A consultative council has been set up in each governorate, following elections on the village, district, neighborhood, and regional levels. Consequently, Dr. 'Isam al- 'Iryan has been nominated for the Guidance Bureau from al-Jizah, Ibrahim al-Za'farani from Alexandria, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani, head of the al-Zaqaziq local council, from al-Sharqiyah, and Ahmad Mahmud Ibrahim, head of the al-Arba'in District, from Suez, in addition to bureau members and elderly members Ahmad al-Malat, Mustafa Mashhur, Hasan 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Miliji, Kamal 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Mahdi 'Akif. [passage omitted]

The Brotherhood group is now going through an unusual time with regard to its relations with the government, which denies it any political or partisan action. Many Guidance Bureau members have found that the only option left for the group is to establish a political party. The group has already finalized the party's internal composition, bylaws, and general program. Its proclamation has been postponed indefinitely. But with the elections for the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly approaching, there has been intense activity within the group in every governorate to prepare for these elections. The group's members in the governorates have been ranked and some of them have been chosen to run in the coming elections. Toward that end, these members are being introduced to the public and the candidates are extending medical and other services to the people. The group's members are trying to standardize campaigning in each constituency and mosques are being used to make "stars" out of some figures before choosing them to run in the elections. Toward that end, members of the group have visited several governorates to urge fellow members and sympathizers to obtain voting cards on the understanding that Muslim Brotherhood members will contest the elections individually as well as jointly with the Labor Party.

Writer Views West's Hostile Attitude to Islam

PC1002053395 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p 4

[From the "Foreign Policy" column by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad: "Making an Enemy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political Islam has become such a daily topic regarding international policy that it will even affect prospective relations among nations and countries, both East and West, at least for the next two decades. Regrettably, this furor is linked to the horror and worry about this phenomenon. This horror and worry has become a common language among Western experts, researchers, and officials. The latest warning came two days ago from U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry when he urged U.S. allies in Europe to confront the phenomenon of the growing extremist Islamic movements in the Mediterranean region. Several U.S. officials in Congress and the U.S. Administration, and European officials have repeated the same warning, which shows that there is a common Western desire to confront this phenomenon.

It is true that certain Islamic and Arab countries are partly to blame for the distorted image of Islam. The fact is that many contemporary Islamic movements are linked to violence and to the bloodshed that occurs in these countries, and this increases the apprehensions of the international community

The truth, however, prompts us to say that the West found in these incidents a good excuse to enhance its arrogant racist attitude toward the entire East in order to maintain its absolute superiority over and inequality with the emerging peoples, who believe in many of the West's values, such as democracy and welfare, as

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humane and international. Western experts and politicians even exaggerate this phenomenon and generalize about the various trends without distinguishing between the moderate and the violent and extremist, let alone certain Western capitals' past involvement in backing the violent groups. This means that the West is partially responsible for the current growth of the extremist fundamentalist Islamic movements.

One of the outstanding examples of the West's bias and errors is the theory advanced by (Samuel Hentigton), professor of the political science at Harvard University, on the clash of civilizations. I will not delve into the main lines of this theory but I want to say that he notes that the factors of religion, civilization, and cultural identity will be the prime causes of future conflicts, not economic or political ideologies. He believes that some form of links and cooperation will take place between the Islamic and Confucian civilizations that will constitute a threat to Western interests. He justifies his views by using the arms race of certain Islamic countries, like Iran, Pakistan, India, Korea [as published], Iraq, and Libya to possess weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear arms.

(Hentigton) does unreservedly insist that it is impossible for Western cultural values to have a chance in such countries, where they would encounter hostility. In this, he seems to back the views of the extremists themselves. At any rate, the West is seeking a new enemy after the fall of its old enemies. It sees an opportunity in the state of confusion and turmoil prevailing in certain Islamic regions. Regrettably, such theories are well received by the decision makers in the capitals of the West.

MB Deputy al-'Akayilah on Treaty

95AA0061A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Dec 94 pp 36-37

[Interview with Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, member of Lower House of Parliament and member of Executive Council of Islamic Action Front; place and date not given—first two paragraphs are FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, a member of the Executive Council of Jordan's Islamic Action Front party [IAF], is one of the most prominent representatives in the Jordanian Parliament. In the previous session, al-'Akayilah was chairman of the House Finance Committee. He also participated in the Cabinet in 1991 as education minister.

To discover the viewpoint of Islamists generally and of Dr. al-'Akayilah regarding the latest developments in the Jordanian arena since conclusion of the peace treaty with the Zionist entity, we have conducted this interview:

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] To begin—we would like you to give us a synopsis of the bases on which you have relied in rejecting the Jordanian-Palestinian peace treaty. What do you say to the opinion that this treaty has entrenched the Jordanian entity and has cut the Zionist plan down to size, considering that the plan has acknowledged for the first time that it [Israel] has borders.

[Al-'Akayilah] To begin my words, I would like to welcome the family of FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH and to laud it for its distinguished efforts to perform its noble message of defending the nation's rights, exposing the aggressive schemes against the nation; and working to arouse the nation's resolve and to revive its hope to liberate its will and to regain its sanctities and its occupied lands.

As for your question, the Islamic movement generally and the IAF in particular proceed on the basis of principled constants in whatever pertains to the conflict with the Zionist enemy and to dealing with any peace treaty with this enemy. Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the following constants represent the bases on which we have relied to reject this treaty:

First, our principled rejection of an occupying Zionist presence on any Arab or Islamic land—especially in Palestine, which constitutes the heart of the Islamic Arab nation and which contains Jerusalem, from which God's apostle, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, made his midnight journey to the seven heavens. Jerusalem is also the place for which the hearts of the faithful in the Arab and Islamic world long. Therefore, we do not cede to the Jews a single inch of Palestine's land. The Oslo Accord and Jordanian-Israeli treaty have recognized the usurping enemy's occupation of this land as legitimate.

Second, we have rejected this treaty because it was concluded on the basis of a single-country dimension. At the Madrid conference, the enemy was able to lure the Arab regimes into embracing this dimension so as to dissolve the central character of the struggle they had waged against it. The enemy also sought to move the struggle from its Islamic pan-Arabist sphere to its single-country sphere so it could deal with each Arab country independently. The enemy could thus dictate its conditions to each country independently, subjugating it to its will and imposing on it, in alliance with the U.S.-led Western camp, surrender to its will and creating the opportunity for the crystallization of its expansionist scheme to establish the greater Israel in the Islamic Arab homeland.

Third, in addition to the aforementioned principled bases, we have rejected the treaty because of the great perils to which it exposes Jordan, even at the regional level. These perils are summed up as follows:

1. The Jordanian presence is imminently endangered by the tyrannical Zionist plan that is encroaching upon the region to dominate it economically, politically, culturally, informationally, and militarily. Jordan is the primary arena for expansion of the Zionist plan. Therefore, Jordan will be the arena most exposed to the dangers of being devoured because of the lack of equilibrium in the endeavor to achieve balance with the enemy at all the economic, political, military, and information levels.

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2. This treaty has detached Jordan from its Arab and Islamic dimensions and has prevented it from entering into any military or semi-military pact or alliance. Through this treaty, the enemy has intentionally isolated Jordan and severed the external links that constitute the strategic dimension for its comprehensive security, be it national, political, military, or economic security. The treaty has turned Jordan into a weak entity in a Middle East order dominated by Israel politically, militarily, economically, and informationally. This is why the Zionist entity has sought to create a new political geography that doesn't include among its components the requirements for the emergence of an Islamic Arab plan that would pose a threat to the Zionist plan that is encroaching upon the region. Rather, the Zionist entity has sought to fuse any such components in a new Middle East order, which this entity leads and controls under the slogan of "growth partnership."

The Zionist entity has not been content with separating Jordan from its Islamic Arab dimension; weakening it externally; and preventing it from protecting itself by resorting to its Islamic Arab dimension in case it is subjected to danger. In the treaty, the enemy has forcibly introduced explicit provisions which, if the Jordanian Government submits to the enemy's will and implements them, will shake Jordan's domestic stability; strike its national unity; and transmit the Lebanese experience to it. This is because the enemy demands that the Jordanian Government take steps to prohibit the basic structures of what it calls terrorism against the Zionist plan. Therefore, all Islamist political forces and parties and all nationalist unions and figures will become, according to the enemy's definition, basic structures of terrorism because they oppose the Zionist plan, which has led to the occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon and which is marching to dominate the other Arab countries. The said forces, parties, and unions will also become basic structures of terrorism because they call for jihad against the occupying Zionist presence and for liberating all the occupied Arab territories.

Consequently, the Jordanian Government, if it submits to the enemy's will and to the demands it makes in the provisions of the treaty, will sooner or later find itself in a confrontation with its people and with political and party forces, whether Islamist, pan-Arabist, or nationalist.

3. In paragraph C of article eight, which concerns the refugees issue, the treaty calls for the settlement [tawtin] of these refugees and emigres.

Numerous Jordanian officials have alleged that this treaty has buried the idea of the alternative homeland.

Here, I believe that the idea of the alternative homeland has been expressed clearly and explicitly in this treaty and has been established in it firmly through the provision on the resettlement of refugees and [1967] emigres. It could have prevented the alternative homeland concept if the Jordanian negotiator had been able to deal with the refugees and emigres issue, which is a Jordanian affair, considering that Jordan faces the threat of having the problem resolved at its expense. I say that, had the Jordanian negotiator been able to stipulate the return of the emigres, who number more than 700,000 and who emigrated from Jericho and Gaza after the 1967 war, they would be able to return to the areas from which they emigrated and which should be a part of the self-rule area, according to Security Council Resolution 237 of 14 June 1967 and UN General Assembly Resolution 2252 of 4 July 1967. As for the refugees, who number more than 1 million in Jordan and who were expelled by the Zionist occupation army in 1948, they have an absolute right to return to any part of the West Bank gradually, even if they were inhabitants of the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. This should have been done in preparation for implementing UN General Assembly Resolution 194 which establishes their right to return.

If these 1 million refugees are Jordanian citizens, then why didn't the Jordanian negotiator at least stipulate in the treaty their right to their private property in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948? This is what the enemy did when it kept al-Baqurah and al-Ghamr lands, which it had seized on the strength of private property ownership, disposal, and development titles belonging to Jewish citizens.

To leave the refugee issue to the multilateral negotiations and the emigres issues to the quadrilateral committee negotiations and to stipulate the resettlement of refugees and emigres in the treaty indicates that they will be resettled in Jordan and that the alternative homeland concept will become real. Therefore, we find that Jordan's existence is in imminent danger as a consequence of this treaty.

The statement that this treaty has cut the Zionist plan down to size is ridiculous when confronted with the irrefutable facts of the real situation. The Zionist enemy's occupation of Palestine has been recognized as legitimate. A wide door has been opened for this enemy to a bridge from which it can cross to the entire region; to control our Islamic Arab region; and to actually begin to realize the scheme of which the enemy has long dreamt. This is the scheme of creating the greater Israel without war, human losses, or attrition of the enemy's economic resources. Through the so-called peace treaty with Jordan and the preceding Oslo accord, the enemy has accomplished what it hadn't been able to accomplish with the wars it launched against our nation throughout the past 46 years of the conflict. Modern state borders are no longer tied to a state's geographic borders. Rather, a state's borders now extend as far as its political, economic, and informational impact, influence, domination, and control extend, without need for military who provoke inhabitants of the dominated regions and without burdens of the cost of guarding these regions.

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[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The treaty was supported by 55 out of a total of 80 deputies in the Jordanian Parliament. Do you think that this ratio reflects the true nature of support for the treaty among ordinary Jordanians, or are there other dimensions to the issue?

[Al-'Akayilah] If I were to use the number of deputies who supported the treaty as an indicator of the size of the popular support for this treaty, I would tell you that the two-thirds ratio of house members who supported the treaty do not reflect the popular support that this ratio implies. On the contrary, if one translates the number of deputies who supported the treaty in terms of the dimensions of their popular representation according to the number of votes they gained, one would find that the equation is totally reversed. The votes received by treaty supporters in the parliamentary elections was about one-third of the votes cast, whereas opponents of the treaty received nearly two-thirds.

Therefore, the two-third-parliamentary support given the treaty does not reflect the true popular support for this treaty. Inversely, the popular weight of the opposition deputies is at least reflected in the number of votes they received from ordinary Jordanians.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The treaty contains numerous provisions for normalization at the various cultural, economic, social, and political levels. Do you think that these provisions will make your movement in the Jordanian arena something akin to dealing in what is prohibited?

[Al-'Akayilah] According to the treaty provisions and to what the enemy wants from it, I will say yes to your question.

However, the Jordanian Government's position is what will determine whether our movement will be characterized as something akin to the prohibited. But we hope that the government will respect the world and spirit of the Constitution and the guarantees it gives the opposition to express its opinion. We hope for this so we will confront the Zionist threat and will fortify the people and the state institutions against normalization with the Zionist enemy.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In recent weeks there has been some sort of escalation between you and the government, exemplified by the beating inflicted on Deputy Abu-Zanat, the prevention of your delivering sermons at mosques, and in other similar measures. Do you view what has happened to date as an ordinary affair, or is it a prelude to a large-scale campaign against Islamists and the end of the era of peace with the government?

[Al-'Akayilah] In an address I delivered on 29 October 1994 in the name of the IAF deputies, I expressed our opinion on the escalation campaign launched by the government following President Clinton's departure and the conclusion of the treaty with the Zionist enemy in Wadi 'Arabah. At the time, the government declared a state of emergency and surrounded mosques in the kingdom's major cities to prevent the opposition from engaging in activities, which are guaranteed by the Constitution, to express its opinion, whether in peace marches, in speech rallies, or in sit-in strikes.

We have said that the government turned against democracy, declared a state of emergency, and began to pay the peace dues by striking the Islamic movement, considering that it is opposed to peace with the enemy. This is why we view the steps taken by the government as the beginning of a large-scale campaign against Islamists—steps that will perhaps form the beginning of the end of peace with the government. Through my address, I sent his majesty the king a message in which we sought to put the matter before his majesty with utter frankness and clarity. We also sought to hear from his majesty something through which we would learn the regime's intentions toward us and the nature of its future relations with us so we could determine the nature of our strategy in the coming phase.

We hope that the regime will view us as opposition and as strength for the country, the people, and the nation. We have a vital role in fortifying our people and nation and in protecting our rear guard against the dangers of the coming Zionist invasion, especially since our country's security and our people's stability are one of the constants of our strategy.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] To strike or contain the Islamists is part of the payments due for the settlement. Clinton's address to the Jordanian Parliament, which you boycotted, was clear in this regard. How do you view this issue, especially since you are presented as the rear guard for Palestine's Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement.

[Al-'Akayilah] We are aware that to strike the Islamists is a Zionist demand, and perhaps a U.S. demand by the same degree of hatred and speed. This demand is not because we are presented as the rear guard for Hamas, but because we represent a fundamental Islamic philosophy that works for the Islamic revival plan, which the Zionist enemy views as the future danger to its scheme.

Every Muslim adhering to his Islam in the Arab and Islamic world supports Hamas fully, exactly as every Muslim adhering to his Islam in the West considers himself a Hamas supporter. Hamas' rear guard is not just in Jordan. Rather, it has spread to the heart of every Muslim in the world. If the Zionist movement thinks that striking the Islamic movement in Jordan will destroy Hamas' rear guard, then it is completely deluded. If the Zionist movement considers every Muslim who adheres to his Islam as a complete system of life, especially political life, one of its targeted enemies, then it puts itself at the same time as the target of every Muslim on earth, whether in the West, which supports its domination or in the East, which has become open to its ambitions.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In light of this tense situation, how will you be able to fight normalization and

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what are the possible means and instruments in this confrontation? On what will you focus in this phase?

[Al-'Akayilah] The question of fighting normalization as one of our strategic objectives in the coming phase will be a thorny question if the coming Jordanian Government continues to submit to the enemy's demands to suppress the opposition and its activities that seek to fortify the people against the dangers of normalization with the enemy.

The means employed to fight normalization are peaceful means guaranteed by the constitution. They will be used to alert the people to the dangers of the Zionist invasion. These means are embodied in speech rallies, national conferences, specialized symposiums, press conferences, professional unions, associations specialized in studies and research, clubs, mosques, chambers of commerce and industry unions, and all popular institutions and political parties, along with their various activities. The purpose is to use all these facets to educate the citizen culturally, economically, politically, and informationally to the dangers of normalization and of dealing with enemy.

Moreover, it is also a must to establish the educational, economic, and information institutions to confront normalization.

All this depends on the Jordanian Government's "patriotism" and on the degree of its genuine cooperation in preventing the enemy from making gains at the expose of our people, nation, and future generations.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In light of the prevailing situation, of the approaching Jewish control of the region, especially in the wake of the Casablanca conference, and of capitulation of the Arab order and its readiness to become subservient to the Jewish state, where is the window of hope from which the Arab and Muslim citizen can see the future?

[Al-'Akayilah] Calculations of the current reality, compared to the Arab and Islamic reality, favor the Zionist enemy and its strategic ally in a stunning and frustrating way.

A wager on the Arab regimes is a losing wager in light of the given facts of the real situation and of what the Arab order's procession has produced. The window of hope from which the Arab and Muslim citizen can see the future is tied to God's will, may He be praised and exalted, and to the vigilance of the peoples, led by an international Islamic movement and awakening. With utter vigilance and with enlightened intelligence, this movement should seek to meet with the sincere pan-Arabist movement in order to form an Islamic pan-Arabist front throughout the Arab and Islamic homeland. This front should include every honest Arab and sincere Muslim according to a plan that comprehends the dangers of the Zionist scheme, which seeks to eradicate the Islamic nation. This plan should develop programs and set up institutions that steer clear of mere speeches and slogans and that face the reality with a spirit of hope, resolve, careful planning, effective organization, and ceaseless work. All this should be done with a scientific understanding based on creativity and inventiveness, on mobilizing all capabilities and resources, and on efforts to rise to the level of the challenge so as to confront it scientifically and with efficient means at the various political, economic, unionist, informational, and jihad fronts, in the comprehensive and effective sense of the word.

Palestinian Affairs

EU Foreign Ministers Conclude Talks, Visit

Juppe Justifies Temporary Closure

TA0902171095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three foreign ministers of the EU this afternoon appealed to Yasir 'Arafat to continue the peace process. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told reporters in Gaza that priority must be given to security problems and that that justifies a temporary closure of the territories. In the meeting with 'Arafat, the ministers discussed further aid to the autonomy.

'Arafat Comments on 'Sucessful' Meeting

JN0902214395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Report by Salim al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received at the Presidential Office today the visiting Troika delegation, headed by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The two sides discussed developments in the peace process, as well as Europe's role and its support for that process. They also tackled the obstacles facing peace in the region.

During a joint news conference with Minister Juppe, President 'Arafat stressed Palestinian-European relations. He also welcomed the Troika delegation's invitation to attend the EU conference scheduled to open in Barcelona next November. The president said: We appreciate the role of the European delegation, especially since Europe was a major contributor at the donors' conference. He also thanked the Troika delegation for Europe's aid to the Palestinian people, and said that a European committee will help us prepare for the upcoming legislative elections.

President 'Arafat described his meeting with the Troika delegation as successful and positive. He said: Quantities of aid extended to us are still held at airports and ports, and we are trying together with our European brothers to solve the problem with the Israelis.

For his part, the French foreign minister voiced Europe's determination to support the peace process and help the

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National Authority [NA]. He added that halting the peace process will be a disaster for the entire region and for international stability. He then referred to the need to continue the peace process. Juppe also said that matters have changed a lot in the Gaza Strip, where there are now modern buildings. He described this as a development toward the better. He expressed his happiness at seeing the NA established here.

Regarding the aid still withheld from the NA, Juppe said it was discussed with the Israelis, who promised to resolve the issue in the next few days.

Al-Tibi on Need for Foreign Involvement 'To Save' Talks

TA1002093495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, aide to Yasir 'Arafat, by Itay Engel and Ya'el Qovetz; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Engel] Good morning, Ahmad al-Tibi. Does the failure of the 'Arafat-Rabin tete-a-tete yesterday, combined with the Palestinians' appeal to the EU troika and the Americans, mean the direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is dissipating?

[Al-Tibi] No, it definitely is not. I think that, despite the difficulties and the snags, a direct dialogue is the best way to achieve results. However, all the recent summit meetings between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman 'Arafat have failed to yield results. Yesterday's meeting was no exception. Each time a summit fails to yield results, each time no progress whatsoever in made, a pall descends on the negotiations. Therefore, it is vital to do more to preserve this institution known as a summit meeting and to save the negotiations.

[Qovetz] Is this not deja vu from Israel's viewpoint? Each time the negotiations get stuck, the Palestinians start talking of multilateral negotiations, which mean a return to the Madrid conference.

[Al-Tibi] No, no, that is an exaggeration. I think both Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] want to save the negotiations, because both have one objective: to implement the second stage of the interim agreement as stipulated.

[Engel] Suppose the approach of the international mediators—the Americans and the Europeans—proves to be similar to that of Israel. Will the PA accept it from them after rejecting it when it came from Rabin?

[Al-Tibi] Look, the Palestinians have demands. So far, the Palestinians have heard no one—neither the Americans, nor the Europeans, nor the Arabs—voice an understanding of the total closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which is causing suffering and hardship and is reinforcing the opposition.

[Engel] Nevertheless, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, if the Americans voice a stand similar to Rabin's, will you embrace it only because it originated on the American side?

[Al-Tibi] No. The Palestinians have stands of their own, and the Palestinians will not accept dictums, even when made by an important superpower. That was why yesterday I called on the United States to do its job as an actively involved party. In reaction, a senior U.S. official called a very senior PA official last night to discuss the state of the negotiations.

At yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman 'Arafat, the prime minister brought up Israel's justified apprehensions about the personal security situation. The chairman said he understood it perfectly. The PA is doing its best to prevent terrorists attacks against Israel. The chairman informed Mr. Rabin that it so happened that on 8 February, a 20-year-old Palestinian from a Gaza Strip refugee camp was detained for planning a large-scale attack inside the State of Israel.

[Qovetz] Is there any information about the attack he planned?

[Al-Tibi] Yes, he confessed.

[Qovetz] Where was it supposed to take place?

[Al-Tibi] Inside the State of Israel. The young man is 19 years old [as heard], and he is from one of the bigger refugee camps. Furthermore, there was an attempted attack yesterday near the Qarni roadblock in the vicinity of the Netzarim junction. Contrary to reports, I can tell you that three young men were detained on suspicion of carrying out the act, and more arrests are expected. Numerous terrorist attacks have been prevented lately, but there is no magic wand which can prevent every single attack. By the way, both the Israelis and the PA should do their best to prevent attacks, which are bound to have an adverse effect on the summit meetings and the substance of the negotiations. To save the negotiations, U.S., Egyptian, and European involvement—some of which was offered by the parties themselves—is necessary.

[Engel] Thank you very much, Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

Al-Husayni on Meeting With EU Troika, Other Issues

JN0902161895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA official in charge of Jerusalem dossier, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Jerusalem on 9 February—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good evening Mr. Faysal al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

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[Al-Barqawi] Your talks today with the European troika delegation were held amid Israeli attempts at poisoning the climate in which these talks were held. Have the talks been affected by this climate?

[Al-Husayni] No, in fact they were good, positive, and constructive. As always, since we started our activities at Orient House even before the Oslo agreement, as you probably are aware, meetings at Orient House have been positive.

[Al-Barqawi] Therefore, the meeting was not confined to sipping coffee.

[Al-Husayni] As you know, during the [fasting] month of Ramadan, we do not offer coffee. The talks were a working session in which we discussed issues related to the peace march and to Jerusalem. However, we were careful to make al-Nadwah building in Gaza the venue of issues related to the PNA [Palestinian National Authority; Palestinian Authority, PA].

[Al-Barqawi] Is the settlements issue the only issue linked to the PNA?

[Al-Husayni] The settlements issue is part of the political process as a whole. Here we also play host to the negotiating Palestinian delegation whose prerogatives extend to the next phase also, the phase of the final talks. Therefore, the issue of the settlements is one of the basic things that are discussed here in Orient House.

[Al-Barqawi] You also met today with the U.S. Consul?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there was a meeting with the U.S. consul today. We reviewed the latest events and we pointed to the extent of the damage caused by some statements by U.S. officials, whether in the Congress or in other departments, especially when they touch on the Jerusalem issue. We already have enough problems to disturb the atmosphere witout these statements. If Jerusalem is not dealt with in a sound manner and its problem is not solved in accordance with international legitimacy, the entire peace process will possibly collapse here over Jerusalem irrespective of successes realized elsewhere.

[Al-Barqawi] Apparently President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today did not produce any results. A statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh was issued to this effect. 'Arafat and Rabin failed to hold a news conference. Does this pave the way for something?

[Al-Husayni] In fact if a meeting is held on this level and nothing results and no agreement is reached, then the entire political process and the entire negotiations will be questioned.

'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed on 'Arafat-Rabin Summit

JN1002132895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information minister in the Palestinian National Authority, by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-Rabbuh] The talks now are revolving in a vicious circle. It is evident that Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to hold the Palestinian side fully responsible, although, for more than one year, he was procrastinating in implementing what is left of the transitional period—namely, the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from populated areas and holding free and democratic Palestinian elections under the supervision of the Palestinian Authority. Such procrastination will lead to an impasse, loss of trust, and a conflagration every now and then. This will also help all those who want to obstruct the peace process practice their role.

In fact, Yitzhaq Rabin gives the issue of security priority over other issues. We do not believe that security is merely a technical and practical process. Security is the outcome of political activities and an integrated political process to create an atmosphere and new conditions which will help achieve an atmosphere of real coexistence between the Palestinians and Israelis. As the English proverb says, Yitzhaq Rabin wants to have his cake and eat it, too. This is his problem.

[Salamah] Mr. Minister: Israel wants you to take more measures against what it terms sources of terrorism in Gaza and believes that the implementation of the remaining articles of the Oslo accord depends on the Palestinian Authority's capability to defeat the forces opposing the peaceful settlement. What is your stand on this Israeli demand?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Prior to the recent operations, the security situation was not as bad as it is now. Despite this, the Israeli pretext wasn't that of security or the launching of operations from Gaza—knowing that this is incorrect—the Israeli pretext was something else, such as the expansion of settlements. They expanded their settlements—encouraged and supervised by the Israeli Government—to Jerusalem, around Jerusalem, and to various areas in the West Bank. This is an expression of the policy of this government, which wants to use pretexts to evade the implementation of the accord and to impose new realities on the ground.

Therefore, we say that we are ready to discuss security issues, but within the framework of implementing the accord, not as a precondition to implement the accord. This is the difference between the two stands: We want a balanced political process while Yitzhaq Rabin wants a process that stands on one leg, not two legs, in order to achieve Israeli gains without taking into consideration the Palestinian interests and rights stipulated by the accords, including halting settlements, all forms of isolation and closure of Palestinian territory, and economic pressure; the failure to release prisoners, but sending other hundreds and thousands to prisons, as well as the other daily blatant violations which have made the political process lose its support among the Palestinians and which made the Israelis lose confidence in the benefit of this political process as a result of the policy of the Rabin government.

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'Arafat Phones Musa, Discusses Erez Meeting

NC0902193995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 9 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat telephoned Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening.

MENA correspondent in Gaza has learned that the Palestinian president briefed Musa on the meeting he held today at the Erez crossing gate with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the difficulties hindering the peace process on the Palestinian track.

U.S. Said Trying To Downplay Failure of Erez Talks

JN1002080395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has begun intensive political moves following the recent Palestinian-Israeli summit to acquaint many regional states and other states with developments in the peace process.

President Yasir 'Arafat sent an urgent message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali in which he underscored the Palestinian stand vis-a-vis the peace process and Palestinian rejection of settlements and of the continuing Israeli closure of the Palestinian territory.

President Yasir 'Arafat separately received the U.S. consul general, the Russian charge d'affaires, and the Norwegian consul general and asked them to convey important messages to their governments.

The president also telephoned Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and briefed him on the results of the meeting between his excellency and the Israeli prime minister at the Erez crossing.

President Yasir 'Arafat also received Mahmud Karim, representative of Egypt to the PNA, last night to brief him on the results of the Palestinian-Israeli summit.

In another development, President Yasir 'Arafat received a telephone call from Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace talks, during which they discussed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli summit at the Erez crossing.

In Washington, the U.S. Department of State tried to downplay the fact that no progress was achieved during the talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The U.S. Department of State noted that both sides agreed to meet again next week. U.S. spokesperson Christine Shelly said that this shows that both sides are trying to resolve problems, adding that we will continue to do our utmost to support them.

The EU today announced that the peace process is passing through a very delicate phase. The EU called on the Israelis and Palestinians to double efforts to end the deadlock in the talks. Following his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said: Europe is determined, more than before, to support the peace process.

Fatah Man Urges Talks To Revive 'Arab Solidarity'

NC0902132595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 9 Feb (MENA)—Sakhr Habash, alias Abu-Nizar, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, has called for an initiative to hold a meeting embracing Arab leaders, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia to revive the spirit of Arab solidarity.

The Palestinian official told a MENA correspondent in Tunis that President Mubarak is skilled in arranging difficult meetings that bring Arab leaders together. He remarked that it is not impossible to overcome the difficulties hindering such a meeting among leaders.

Abu-Nizar pointed out that it has become very difficult to take the Oslo meeting to the final stage, achieving Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank, dismantling and eliminating settlements, and seeing the return of Jerusalem—the prerequisites of the agreement. He accused Israel of including ambiguous articles in the Oslo agreement so that it could implement the agreement to its advantage any time.

He stressed that unless the agreement is implemented in a manner that leads to steps preventing settlement and in a way that indicates the possibility of dismantling existing settlements, returning evacuees, and realizing the Palestinian people's aspirations, the alternative will be to continue armed struggle.

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Algeria

Dembri Confirms FIS Leader Madani in Hospital

LD0902195595 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian foreign minister [Mohamed Salah Dembri] has confirmed that Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has been hospitalised. He did not, however, give any details on Mr. Abassi Madani's state of health.

Dembri Speaks on Human Rights, 'Terrorism'

LD0902195795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri stressed in Geneva today Algeria's commitment to the defense of human rights. In his address to the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Commission, Mohamed Salah Dembri said that the 1989 Constitution entrenched multiparty politics, the independence of the judiciary, equality between citizens, the right of assembly, and individual and collective rights.

Mohamed Salah Dembri also stressed the important role of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group, created in 1992 as an independent institution and whose tasks include the strengthening of the mechanisms for monitoring human rights in Algeria.

Dembri also pointed out that Algeria is required to succeed in achieving development, guaranteeing social justice, and conducting the democratic process to its final goal. He added that Algeria has the means to achieve this.

Regarding the accusations made by some humanitarian organizations on human rights violations in Algeria, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri called on international human rights organizations to come to Algeria to see for themselves, and said that they would be given all the necessary facilities to carry out their work.

In the address he made on the occasion, Mohamed Salah Dembri said that Algeria will continue to fight terrorism with legal means until it is eliminated.

Security Services Report 13 'Criminals' Killed

LD0902213295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced that after launching a number of search operations, their forces killed 13 criminals. The statement says that six were killed in Relizane Province, and that a seventh criminal was killed in the same area in another search operation. A quantity of weapons and ammunition was also recovered in these operations.

The security services added that four of the 13 were killed in the Skikda Province, where a number of firearms were recovered. Two other criminals were killed, one in the Blida Province, and the other in Beni Yenni, in Tizi Ouzou Province.

UNESCO Official Condemns Murder of Intellectuals

LD1002101995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria should be helped to overcome its current crisis and this help must include finding a solution to the problem of its foreign debts either by reducing them or writing them off altogether, said Federico Mayor, director-general of UNESCO, speaking to the correspondent of national radio's [French-language service] Channel 3 on the sidelines of a symposium on development in Africa held in Paris.

Mayor said this aspect must be taken into account in the context of the fight against violence and terrorism worldwide because, he added, any worsening of the debt problem will exacerbate poverty and poverty is one of the main roots of violence and extremism.

The UNESCO director-general said that the organization set up a team of experts from various sectors to follow the developments of the situation in Algeria day by day. He added that the organization hopes to help Algeria overcome its current situation.

Peace in Algeria, Mayor said, is necessary not just for the African continent, the Mediterranean, and Europe but also for the entire world. He added that this position is shared by all UNESCO members because violence and attacks on intellectuals, schools, and innocent people cannot be tolerated and cannot be justified in any way, least of all from a religious point of view since all religions are based on love.

Regarding events in Algeria, the UNESCO director-general said that whenever a criminal act is committed he never hesitates to condemn it. He concluded his statement by saying that in the framework of international participation in the fight against terrorism he would like to see the world adopt a unanimous stand against violence which would not accept any justification for criminal violence. [sentence as heard]

In conclusion he said: No to violence, no to violence, and no to violence.

Prime Minister Speaks Against 'New Fascism'

LD0902183395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1228 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi on the occasion of the 37th commemoration of a French air raid, in Sakiet Sidi Yussef village on 8 February—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God. The Compassionate. The Merciful. May God's prayers and peace be upon the noblest of messengers.

His Excellency brother Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, [applause]. Messrs. ministers, ambassadors, and governors. Ladies and gentlemen. Brothers and sisters. May God's peace, mercy, and benediction be upon you.

I would like to begin my speech by thanking his excellency brother Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, for his eloquent speech and his sincere feelings of friendship toward our people and our country. [passage omitted]

Just like our brothers and fathers fought yesterday so as to face colonialism and get rid of it, we today fight with the same determination so as to foil all the plans and maneuvers hatched against us, while filled with the same spirit and principles with which we achieved our national independence. [passage omitted]

It is a new fascism that wants to dominate God's message to destroy our youths' hope in modernization, progress, and freedom. It is a new fascism that some selfish foreign countries want to purify with the blood of our children and on the remnants of our institutions.

Actually, there are calls for war and sedition raised in some foreign capitals; calls to destroy Algeria and what it represents. These calls are not, and will not, reach anyone. These calls, which are not reaching and will not reach anyone, ignore history and geography. These calls pretend to have forgotten that Algeria is the great Maghreb, and that the great Maghreb is part of the Mediterranean basin, and that the Mediterranean Sea is the world's strategic center. [applause]

Thus, there will never be peace in this region if there is no peace in Algeria. And there will be no political or economic stability in the east if Algeria is threatened. There cannot be peace in Europe if there is no peace in the South Mediterranean. All who contribute to defining the contours of the world order must look carefully into this. Why is there a distinction between extremists under the cover of Islam in Afghanistan and extremists under the cover of Islam in Algeria? Why is there a distinction between the mad murderers in Iran and those who support the Shi'a belief in Algeria? It is the same hatred, the same fanaticism, and the same enemy. It is the enemy of Islam, the enemy of Arabs, and the enemy of the Great Maghreb and of tolerance and civilization.

The political crisis which led today to bloodshed in Algeria is not attributable to the halt in the electoral process in 1991 because if that were the case, what better solution than to return to that process starting from presidential elections as of this year, as we have decided to do? No, the crisis rocking my country today is attributed to the fact that men who do not have any creed or code, and on most occasions have no honor, want to reach power in alliance with the ugliest form of terrorism in the world. That terrorism has been imported into our country from Peshawar and Khartoum with the money of these men and the collusion of those others. Nobody is more helpless than the blind, other than the person who does not want to see. Algeria will never fall. [applause]

Algeria will never fall; its people rejects religious extremism and foreign intervention and denounces the stance of the superpowers that shelter terrorism on their soil for the sake of mean interests. Regarding some of the European leaders who might try to interfere in Algeria's internal affairs, finding excuses in humanitarian intentions triggered by the crisis in our country—why, I wonder, do they lack the same enthusiasm when the issue concerns [word indistinct] the many hotbeds of tension on the European continent itself. [passage omitted]

This land which was the birthplace of Anibal and Abu al-Qasim al-Shabi; this land which played a part in the advancement of Christianity and spreading the tolerant Islamic faith; this land which stretches out from Tangier to Cairo, will never accept that religious extremism can be planted in it. No one will be able to do this. [applause]

Those people—in the West or the East—who are shouting and screaming at our desire to make progress toward modernization and democracy, we refer them to history. [passage omitted]

Today, no one can destroy Carthage because Carthage is the Greater Maghreb. The Greater Maghreb, which today consists of the basis on which the future of Europe and the future of the world rests, never surrendered to a succession of invaders and this was due to the devotion and the bravery of its people, who can never be made to kneel. The leaders of this world should understand that it is not possible to impose any authority by force on this proud people.

Prime Minister, Ministers, Ambassadors, Governors, brothers and sisters, our continuing cooperation and solidarity by way of a persistent joint action in various fields of activity shows the extent of our concern over the building of our future and realizing our aspiration for economic development and social advancement. The joint development action witnessed by this border area reflects our true will and firm determination to make it like a bridge for cooperation through development projects for the benefit of the peoples in these areas.

Within the framework of the directives of our leaderships, we will continue to work together to achieve our common aspirations; we will overcome the difficulties; we will also be able to confront the challenges which might come our way and promote our distinguished relations, especially that we are living in a world which is witnessing rapid development and deep transformations, which makes it imperative upon us, more than ever, to unite the efforts utilizing them to develop our economies and capabilities until we take our legitimate position at the regional and international level.

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The outcome which crowned the summit meeting held between His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual and his brother [Tunisian President] Zine El Abidine Ben Ali [applause] last year was a quantitative step which had a direct impact on pushing our cooperation forward, enhancing it with a new dimension, and opening wide horizons for fruitful work.

As far as we are concerned, the building of a solid and a strong, greater Maghreb in which brotherhood, concord, and solidarity prevail, was and still is our strategical goal and national priority. And we are determined to exert all our efforts to make such a goal a reality. We are guided, in such an endeavor, by our strong belief and our deep conviction in the inevitability of our common fate, which should be a prosperous, stable, and secure future.

His Excellency Prime Minister. Messrs. ministers, Ambassadors, and Governors. Ladies and Gentlemen: I cannot end my speech without reminding you that my presence here and the presence of my accompanying delegation is a token for the gratitude of the Algerian people to its fraternal Tunisian people [applause]. It is to thank it for its full and unconditional support during our struggle for freedom. It is also a reaffirmation of our belief in the inevitable common destination of the peoples of the great Arab Maghreb. However, such a destination will not be realized save in an atmosphere of tolerance, brotherhood, and the noble and humanitarian values of our true religion. [passage omitted]

Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Offers Support

LD0902194795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We will support Algeria despite all the difficulties it is facing—this statement was made by the Belgian minister of foreign trade and European affairs to APS in Brussels. Here is Djamal Sarhabdi:

[Begin Sarhabdi recording] Belgium has maintained its investments in the Algerian economy, particularly those in Sonatrach, which are hard currency-earning investments, he stressed. Belgium regards Algeria as (?a full) partner. The Belgian foreign trade minister stressed that his country has not reduced its efforts and that the Belgian institutions, including [name indistinct] which is the office guaranteeing export credits, is still behaving as in the past.

As for his impression of the crisis that is shaking our country, he said that it is a strictly internal political matter. He explained that violence is best fought with development. Violence is often born and develops where people are facing economic and financial difficulties. This argument led him to say that Europe should not think only about its cooperation with the Eastern European countries. The Belgian minister has even announced a Euro- Mediterranean summit to be held next November in Barcelona under the Spanish presidency. [end recording]

Egypt

Al-Alfi Criticizes U.S. Report on Human Rights

NC1002090995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 10 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the government is eager to respect human rights in Egypt. He said the government welcomes any serious and honest action in this field, on condition that such action is not a cover for political activity the objective of which is to distort Egypt's image abroad.

He said, in an interview with the Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH published here today, that the Interior Ministry has nothing to hide and that it is ready to cooperate with any side involved in human rights' affairs.

The interior minister criticized the report distributed by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo recently on the human rights situation in Egypt in 1994. He said it is not in the interest of the United States to portray a fake image of the situation in Egypt or to support those who wish to do so.

Al-Alfi accused those who produced the report of not being objective or neutral. He accused them of translating the most grotesque stories appearing in the Egyptian opposition papers sympathetic to terrorism and the reports of organizations with suspect motives. He said only those who have a specific objective, namely, to harm the country's image, resort to this.

He added that the Interior Ministry can refute all the misleading allegations and untrue reports that are issued on this subject. He confirmed at the same time that the security bodies are working within the framework of the law and adhere to it. They will not be dragged into counter-violations despite the ugliness of the crimes the terrorists commit.

Al-Alfi called on the organizations working in the field of human rights to be accurate, objective, and precise in their choice of sources, so that their role, in the final analysis, does not end up supporting terrorism and colluding over the ugliest human rights violations that are committed by the terrorist groups.

Al-Alfi accused some of those working in the field of human rights in Egypt of wanting to satisfy concerned forces abroad and get their support under the human rights' slogan. He noted that these people confuse human rights with politics. They have turned into a political group that resorts to human rights slogans to cover up for their failure to gain acceptance among political circles that have rejected them.

The interior minister expressed his hope that Egyptian organizations concerned with human rights will adhere to an objective stand and not confuse political action with human rights activities so that they will gain greater credibility.

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AL-SHA'B: U.S. Experts Work in Israeli Nuclear Plants

NC0902142395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-SHA'B newspaper has learned that 90 U.S. nuclear experts work in the research centers of the Israeli nuclear program and that the U.S. Administration is fully aware of the Israeli nuclear program activities. These U.S. experts are working within the framework of a scientific agreement that was signed between the two countries in 1983 and was renewed in 1990. The agreement will be renewed again in 1997. According to this information, approximately 50 Jewish experts travel between the United States and Israel to link the U.S. and Israeli nuclear programs. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Clearing Region of Nuclear Arms

NC0902210395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Issue of Clearing the Middle East of Nuclear Arms Within Its Regional and International Frameworks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statement that the Israeli nuclear arms issue was raised at the meetings of the Damascus Declaration states foreign ministers draws attention. The delegations showed deep concern over this issue. They expressed surprise at the exemption of one state from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and they emphasized that this is unacceptable. Given this situation, it was only natural that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers would support President Husni Mubarak's initiative to rid the Middle East of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. This Arab consensus on the governmental and popular levels in support of Egypt's stance on this vital issue attracts close attention. For it is closely related not only to the security of the Arab peoples alone but to the security of all the peoples of the region without exception as well as the causes of peace and security in the whole world.

The issue of banning nuclear arms in the world has recently come forcefully to the forefront because it is an important and urgent international issue. [passage omitted]

We want to point out that Egypt's raising of the nuclear arms issue within the framework of the efforts to establish a regionally comprehensive and fair peace was one of the basic reasons the issue has gained such prominence on the international level. There are some important points to be made in this respect:

First, it is unreasonable and unacceptable under any pretext or circumstances to except any state from the worldwide ban on nuclear arms. In this respect equal treatment must be ensured among all nations. Making exceptions would only rob the NPT of its strength and tempt both big and small nations to seek nuclear arms, particularly since the secrets of nuclear weapons are no longer the monopoly of the big powers and other nuclear countries. The possession of such arms has become merely a matter of time and resources.

Second, the situation regarding nuclear arms on the international level has drastically changed since the end of the cold war. Important steps were taken toward disposing of nuclear arms by agreements between the United States and Russia—the successor to the former Soviet Union—who possess the two biggest nuclear arsenals.

Third, safeguarding the earth's environment for the future has become one of the most important and serious issues of the age. As we know, the production, testing, and use of nuclear arms is one of the main dangers threatening the environment and all forms of life.

Regarding Egypt's initiative to clear the Middle East of nuclear arms, we maintain that it is well known that Israel is the only nuclear-armed country in the region, even though it has not expressly admitted it. Israel's insistence on retaining these arms simply means that it has not abandoned its aggressive intentions and policies in the region and that it does not agree to exchange security guarantees with the regional countries and to an equal security footing with them. This situation would completely deprive the Arab-Israeli peace process of credibility. And, irrespective of the security balance, the mere presence of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction in the region poses a real danger to security in the region and constitutes a constant threat and pressure from Israel on the regional countries. The important point here is that differences over this vital issue must be settled within the framework of the peace process and in the genuine spirit of this process without affecting the substance of the issue, namely, the need to clear the area of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Security Forces Kill 3 'Terrorists' in al-Minya

NC0902184795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Minya, 9 Feb (MENA)—State Security Intelligence personnel today eliminated three terrorists during a raid on one of their dens in the Mallawi district in al-Minya governorate. The security agencies earlier received information that a number of terrorists were hiding in one of their dens in the area. When the security men surrounded the hideout, the terrorists opened fire, prompting the security forces to return fire, which resulted in the deaths of three of them. Al-Minya security commanders and criminal laboratory experts proceeded to the scene and the prosecution has been notified to begin investigations.

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Iran Proposes 'Unofficial' Dialogue on Disputed Issues

MM1002091695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Feb 95 p6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Iran Invites Egypt to 'Unofficial Dialogue' in Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—AL-HAYAH has learned that Iran has invited Egypt to intensive unofficial meetings in the coming days in Tehran at the level of politicians, former officials, diplomats, intellectuals, and researchers to discuss disputed issues and explain positions on bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international issues to arrive at a common understanding. It accused foreign parties of having a vested interest in the continuation of these disputes.

The Iranian call was made at unofficial meetings held between diplomats from the two countries in some European capitals. During these meetings, the Iranian diplomats accused certain Arab media of pursuing an aggressive unobjective policy with the aim of distorting Iran's image and portraying it as a state opposed to Arab interests. They requested a halt to media campaigns of that kind. They also said that some parties are interested in the continued attacks on Iranian policies and especially accusations that Iran is trying to undermine stability and support terrorism, in a manner denoting ill intentions to prejudice Iran's position.

It is worth noting that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has repeatedly stressed that his country has no objection to official meetings between officials of the two countries to exchange views and coordinate on issues of common interest. He denied mediation by a third party for the improvement of relations. He stressed that Iran "is an Islamic state neighboring the region and it would be natural to hold consultations with it on such issues."

Informed Egytpian sources have told AL-HAYAH that Cairo welcomes dialogue and peaceful settlement of differences. They added that some steps in that direction have already started and expressed the hope that these steps would result in greater understanding of the Egytpian reservations about the Iranian policy and would clear the atmosphere and pave the way for the settlement of differences. 'Abbas Maleki, Iranian foreign ministry under secretary and director of the ministry's research institute, had held talks in this context with former Egyptian officials and intellectuals last December.

Opposition Paper Blames Peace Talks Failure on Israel

NC1002082795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—The opposition newspaper AL-WAFD has stated that the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Erez failed because of the extreme policy Israel is applying, particularly with regard to the siege it is imposing on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, expanding the settlements, and redeploying its Armed Forces.

The newspaper said in its editorial today that this extremism means that Israel does not care about the peace process and wants to escalate revenge operations against it. The paper noted that the acts of violence taking place now in the West Bank are considered a natural reaction to Israeli extremism and a continuation of the siege policy imposed on the self-rule areas.

The newspaper added that Palestinian President 'Arafat has offered all the concessions he can to continue the peace process. It is unfair to ask him for more, because that will give the Palestinian extremists a chance to deal 'Arafat a blow and put an end to the stability of peace in the region.

The newspaper warned that if Israel does not move quickly in a positive direction, nobody will blame the moderate Palestinian current, and the Palestinians will have no option but to resort to the rifle and continue the series of destruction and killing.

Libya

U.S. Report on Rights in Egypt Criticized

LD0802155795 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, an Nawar [Feb] 8, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The American State Department published its annual report on what it describes as human rights in Egypt, claiming widescale human rights violations during 1994. This is an indecent aspect of American intervention in the internal affairs of other states and has become a clear criteria and a basic conduct in American colonialist policy against the nation. JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on America's coveting of Egypt and said:

At a time when we are surprised at this American coveting by a ministry which is the first American ministry expressing American policy in its indecency and its interference in the internal affairs of other nations, we are asking who mandated the American State Department to assess the policies of other states and nations. What are the legal references and what is its constitutional reference on which such intervention is based, except for the American feeling of lunacy of greatness and arrogance of power, which are expressed in all its policies, its plans and its position throughout the world.

The editor added: This confirms clearly the American-Israeli conspiracy which is hatching a plot against Egypt's unity to Balkanise it and to undermine it by distorting its image throughout the world, taking such an initial step, which will be followed by an attack. This conspiracy is not new. We have enough evidence and information about it. The report focused on acts of terrorism against banks,

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government officials, security forces, Christians, Christian churches, tourists and foreigners.

It claimed the disappearance of 19 persons during 1994 after they were arrested and all efforts by their relatives failed in determining their whereabouts. The editor revealed that the links of the conspiracy emerged through the utilisation of American tools of pressure on Egypt starting with hints about reducing American aid to attempts at its isolation from its natural habitat and reducing its role in favour of the Israelis in order to make the Israeli enemy the most powerful force in the area with their arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear chemical and biological, in addition to supplying them with sustained economic support and enabling them to control Arab potentials and wealth.

JANA's Arab affairs editor said that the American report comes to achieve these goals in addition to attempting to destabilise national unity within Egypt by segregation amongst nationals, undermining stability in Egypt by levelling accusations on Egyptian security organs and accusing them of involvement in several acts of murder in 1994 and claiming that the Egyptian Government did not conduct enough investigations and did not provide explanations for the reasons of death and that the Egyptian Government did not respond to the questions by various relatives of those who died or disappeared and accusing Egyptian police officers in the Egyptian state security organ of practising systematic torture.

All that so that America is able to implement its plan in Egypt as it did in Lebanon when it interfered under the pretext of protecting or defending Christians, giving pretexts for direct intervention in Egyptian domestic affairs.

The editor questioned: Is Egypt one of the American states so that the report will be legally and constitutionally justified as if it is the American Congress interrogating an American minister. As if the American State Department had been addressing the governor of one of its states. How can we justify this flagrant intervention from the State Department into Egyptian affairs in total disregard of the fact that these are the affairs of an independent state, which has its sovereignty and that Egypt is the largest and most important Arab state and that Egypt for the Arab nation, represents a lot more than America represents for the west.

The editor confirmed that the American State Department is not responsible for Egypt and that Egypt is not an American state. Is it possible in the same manner for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to issue a report questioning the American Government about American citizens, who disappear systematically and on the cases of unjustified arrests of American nationals and the ways in which they are treated. Could the Egyptian Foreign Ministry question together with the relatives of the disappeared about the reasons for their disappearance.

The editor also questioned the legitimacy on which America based its inspection of another state at a time when the United Nations Charter makes it clear that any intervention in affairs of another American Government believes that it has become the government of the world and that it has a higher authority than the Egyptian Government and other governments.

Applying the same standard, is it possible for Egypt, Libya or other states to assume that role towards America and issue a report on the violation of human rights and the situation of the minorities including Arabs, Blacks, Red Indians, Mexicans and Jews.

JANA'S Arab affairs editor said that the American Government believes it has the right to issue assessments of the facts which distort Egypt's image in front of the nations of the world, in return for the aid provided to Egypt.

As long as such aid gives the American Government a pretext for interfering in America's internal affairs to service American interests they cannot be considered aid or assistance but a bridge for flagrant American intervention and an Americans of colonialisation and domination.

The editor went on with his comment saying we do not believe America has the right to undermine Egypt's national sovereignty in return for the assistance it provides. This will not give her the right to say that American laws do not protect and defend Egyptian nationals thus questioning the integrity of Egyptian laws.

This is an insult for the will of the Egyptian people, their sovereignty and their legislative and legal institutions, which are adopted and signed by the president. Then where is the right for America to undermine Egyptian law and claim it does not protect the citizens.

JANA's Arab affairs editor concluded his comment by saying: Who gave America the right to assume itself as an alternative for the legislative institutions which express the nation's sovereignty. It seems that America wants to issue laws and export them for other states for implementation in line with its belief that it has become the government of the world. We will not be shocked if we know that the American Congress is discussing a new set of laws for export or that American State Department is carrying this mission and is generalising and circulating such laws for other states to implemet as long as they do not stand against such American arrogance.

We are telling America that you don't have the right to interefere in the affairs of states and nations. Whatever aid you provide will not justify your insults and rebuke of the governments of the world as was clear in that report full of vicious rebuke for independent states with sovereignty and with national integrity much more valuable than American material aid coupled with humiliating conditions.

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Unity Committee: Damascus Declaration Harms Arab Unity

LD0902180195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has issued the following statement:

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has followed up, with interest, the developments accompanying the establishment of the so-called Damascus Declaration, which included eight Arab countries. The justification for their grouping was the rejection of the Iraqi intervention in Kuwait and their participation in the U.S. troops' war against Iraq, in order to secure their security and coordinate positions and interests by creating a political and economic grouping that holds regular meetings, the last of which was the 10th meeting of the foreign ministers on 5 and 6 February.

The secretariat has also followed up the Damascus Declaration member-states' assessment of the development of their course and their common desire to develop it and to set up a reference document for it. There is no objection that this formula and grouping crystallize into a form of a union in preparation for the unification of its countries into a single one.

However, our follow-up has resulted in a number of queries over the nature of relations linking the Declaration member-states with the Arab League and its institutions, particularly since these countries have announced that they were an inseparable part of the comprehensive Arab order whose framework is the Arab League. Yet, our queries remain over the situation of other countries who, like the Declaration member-states rejected and denounced the Iraqi occupation to Kuwait, but did not participate with the American troops in the war and rejected the entry of the U.S. and foreign troops in the holy lands and the Arab Peninsula. These countries are: the Arab Maghreb countries, Yemen, Sudan, Jordan, and Lebanon. These countries were bypassed when the so-called Damascus Declaration was established in a an illogical sorting of the Arab countries.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity presents its queries to the countries that were left out from the Damascus Declaration membership. These countries should define their positions on not being invited to join the Declaration, which resulted in the isolation of other Arab countries by the Damascus Declaration member-states. The exclusion of these Arab countries who took the same stance is another split in the Arab family which subsequently leads to a great breach in the fundamentals of joint Arab action at a time when the Arab nation is struggling for its unity to secure the present and future of the Arabs.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity affirms that their stance is not against Damascus Declaration member states—or their meeting, which the secretariat hopes succeeds in achieving a unionist formula among the member states—rather it is a warning and an inquiry about a situation which is not right, that requires treatment, and should be treated by the countries concerned.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reshuffles, Replaces Cabinet Members

EA0902180395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has issued a constitutional decree appointing the following people to the positions appearing after their names:

OFFICIAL	POSITION
'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha	Minister of foreign affairs [formerly minister of social planning]
Muhammad 'Uthman al-Khalifah	Minister of social planning
'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif	Minister of roads and communications
Professor Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar	Minister of higher education and scientific research
Dr. Kabashor Kuku	Minister of education [formerly minister of communication and tourism]
Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa 'Abd-al-Salaam	Minister of trade
Muhammad Tahir (Illa)	Minister of tourism and the environment
Al-Fatih Muhammad 'Ali	Minister of transport
Badr-al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman	Minister of industry
Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din Atabani	Minister of state for foreign affairs [formerly minister of state in the office of the president]
Prof. 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad (Wa'bi)	Minister of state for agriculture
Prof. Musa Muhammad Musa	Minister of state for (?Industry)
'Abd-al-Rahman Nur-al-Din Mustafa	Minister of state in the offices of the federal administration
Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad	Minister of state in the office of the president
Ihsan 'Abdullah al-Ghabshawi	Minister of state for internal affairs and commissioner of refugees [formerly commissioner of refugees]

Reorganizes Government Ministries

EA0902220595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of the God, the merciful, the commpassionate. A Republican decree establishing and reshuffling federal ministries for 1995. In the name of god, then, in the name of the people. The

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president of the Republic, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 (a) of the Third Constitutional Decree of 1989, and after taking cognizance of Presidential Decree No. 203 of 1993, issues the following decree:

1. This decree is called Republican Decree Establishing and Reshuffling Federal Ministries for 1995, and it shall come into force on the date of its signature.

Abolition of Federal Ministries:

2. The following federal ministries are abolished and their jurisdictions are distributed in accordance with this decree. They are: A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry; B) Ministry of Education and Scientific Research; C) Ministry of Communications and Tourism.

Establishment of Federal Ministries and Specification of Their Jurisdictions:

3. The following federal ministries are established: A) Ministry of Industry; B) Ministry of Commerce; C) Ministry of Roads and Communications; D) Ministry of Survey and Aviation; E) Ministry of Tourism and Environment; F) Ministry of Instruction and Public Education; G) Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. [passage omitted]

Cruises to Libya Via Egypt Halted To Avoid Defections

NC0902193395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Feb 95 p 11

[From the "Brothers' Page"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the request of the [Sudanese] Front government, Libya has suspended cruises carrying Sudanese to Libya via the port of Alexandria in Egypt. In a secret report sent by the security service to the Foreign Ministry in Khartoum, the Sudanese authorities said that the decision was made as a precautionary measure to prevent those coming from Libya to Sudan via Egypt from joining the Sudanese opposition.

It is worth mentioning that exit visas to Libya have been abolished by a decision of the Sudanese Interior Ministry in order to prevent more Sudanese from going to Libya, which could change Libya's support for the Sudanese regime in the near future. The Interior Ministry fears that a huge number of Sudanese citizens might join an armed opposition, as happened in July 1976 during the reign of Field Marshal Numayri.

Commander of Opposition SCF Interviewed

NC0902205095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Feb 95 p 11

[From the "Brothers' Page"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-WAFD correspondent al-Shaykh al-Husayni has met with Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, commander of the newly established Sudanese Coalition Forces [SCF] [quwwat al-tahaluf al-sudani]. Brig. Gen. Khalid discussed the nature of the coalition forces and the difference between these forces and the military coupist organizations. The following is the text of the interview:

[Al-Husayni] The name Sudanese Coalition Forces appears in the recent opposition forces' agreement. Could you shed light on the elements of the SCF's program and its objectives?

[Khalid] The proclamation of the SCF came as a result of a thorough study of Sudanese reality. We benefited from the masses' experience in resisting dictatorship and the armed forces' loyal attitude. Since the nature of this regime differs from the nature of the previous dictatorial regimes, we built our organization on the basis of a combination of the Sudanese people's resistance ability and their organizations on the one hand and the willingness of the armed forces and regular forces to support our organization on the other.

The current situation helps us develop this combat experience. The popular and regular forces have united in their struggle. This is a part of the Sudanese people's creative ability. We are seeking the support of the regular armed forces and their unions as well as the youth and student organizations. We also need the help of the unorganized silent majority. We need to arouse all the popular forces since we have decided to support and fight for their cause. This is what we call the biased philosophy. The gun has become a tool supporting the people's armed uprising. The task of the coalition forces is not only one of partiality and protection. These forces are faithful vanguards for achieving the masses' aspirations to set up a democratic unified state that will give the new Sudan a state of civic and organized institutions where the supremacy of law prevails. This state will have democracy, justice, and equality and will guarantee the rights of individuals and groups to freedom of political expression.

The unity that we champion emanates from these new bases. The old unity is threatened and will not continue. We are proposing unity in a federal state involving all Sudan after the overthrow of the front's regime. Unity in new Sudan will be founded on genuine bases and clear-cut constants.

[Al-Husayni] How do you assess the present regime in Sudan, and is it possible to work out a compromise solution with it?

[Khalid] Reconciliation with this regime is absolutely not under discussion. We strongly believe that this regime, which represents a minority, is enforcing a new colonialism against the people. This minority does not represent the people or their ethics and values.

I see no difference between their practices and those of colonialism. They use the most grotesque methods of persecution against the people. Their media distort facts in order to lower the people's vigilance. This minority's economic machine controls the mainstays of the people's economy. All these practices are aimed at subjugating the people. Therefore, the people believe that combating this regime is the only way to overthrow and uproot it. This is the goal that we propose for the armed popular uprising .

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[Al-Husayni] What is your reply to the reports that the opposition has not received the aid necessary to overthrow the regime?

[Khalid] I am not enthusiastic about this tendency. We must help ourselves and we must rely on our intrinsic capabilities. This is our principle. We must show our brothers and friends that we have indeed started to combat the regime. We urge regional coordination in order to explain our legitimate call to tighten the noose around the regime's neck diplomatically and economically. The interests of these countries are in line with the interests of our people because the objectives of the front's regime go far beyond Sudan's borders.

I would like to reiterate that the crucial factor in this battle is the Sudanese people and their popular and organized forces. They alone have the final say.

[Al-Husayni] Doesn't this organization conflict with the call to preserve the nationalist orientation of the Armed Forces?

[Khalid] I am a member of the Armed Forces and know its makeup very well. Nationalism is not a slogan. We are open to all the people and are offering ideas that nobody can question the nationalism of or the nationalism of those proposing them. The "Salvation" organization, for instance, staged a coup to serve the interests of a specific party. They betrayed the honor and sacred goals of the Armed Forces. If nationalism is a mere formality, members of the Salvation organization come from all Sudanese provinces but at the same time they betray all the Sudanese masses and do not represent the views or the hopes of the provinces from which they come. We want to topple the regime for the sake of all the people without siding with any party or forming any alliance. We are the military wing of those who have taken to the streets to shout against the regime: "A million martyrs for a new era." There is no middle ground for us in this case; either we are honored by martyrdom or we win a victory for the masses. We follow and are inspired by the heartbeat of masses, who are our teachers and guides. While the "Salvation" organization uses religion to serve partisan goals, we call for respecting all religions, because their message guides people and perfects their ethics and not that religion should be used to dominate others. We are the patriots within the Armed Forces who called for peace before the coup at a time when the others were beating the drums of war.

[Al-Husayni] Did the Islamic Front really succeed in eliminating the nationalist and patriotic cadres from the military establishment?

[Khalid] The Sudanese are a clever and prolific people. By virtue of their organization and responsibility, the regular forces are by nature opposed to ideologies. When we presented our ideas we made a point of harmonizing our political thinking with the nationalist-oriented military thinking. The Armed Forces constitute a melting pot where personnel are adapted to serve the national goals. The ethics of the military profession prohibit striking at the Sudanese people. The rifle is meant to protect the people and their sovereignty, not to hurt them.

[Al-Husayni] What are your priorities for the future?

[Khalid] The duties of the coming stage are all geared toward the main battle. We will not oppose anyone who is against the regime. We tolerate opposing opinions and will not be distracted by side battles that may preoccupy us from our main battle, which is to rescue the people from the grip of the Islamic Front. It is precisely this front that is the enemy, and we will defeat it with its own weapons. We know its methods and techniques very well and will expose whoever tries to prolong the life of this regime. As for side battles, we will never get involved in them. From these pages, I call upon all people to be prepared for the decisive battle for the salvation of the Sudanese people. I particularly call upon the youths who believe in peace, democracy, unity, and a new Sudan to organize themselves for the sake of the coming decisive battle, which will bring victory and emancipation for our people.

Tunisia

Algerian Prime Minister Departs, Issues Statement

LD0902212995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi left Tunisia today after co-chairing with his Tunisian counterpart the celebrations marking the 37th anniversary of the events of Sakiet Sidi Yussef. Mokdad Sifi earlier today met the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the Carthage Palace. Their talks centered on ways and means to give a new impetus to bilateral relations.

In a brief statement to reporters prior to his departure, Mokdad Sifi expressed his satisfaction with the increasing awareness of the international community of the numerous dangers which extremism and terrorism pose. He also confirmed that the presidential elections will be held before the end of this year. Mokdad Sifi had this to say to our colleague Djaouida Azzoug:

[Begin Sifi recording] If we have decided to hold these elections, it means that they can be held and all the arrangements are being made and the preparations are going smoothly to ensure that these elections are held. You also give me the opportunity to say that all parties and international public opinion often talk about Algeria, but fail to mention the elections.

The presidential elections which are due to be held are the best way out of the crisis in which Algeria finds itself. In my opinion, it is the fundamental solution to this crisis and it will help resolve all the problems. [end recording]

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Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Urges Sound Friendship With Yemen

LD0902135795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and supreme commander of the armed forces, to commanders and officers of the Northern Region and the Desert Shield force, in King Khalid military city, Hafar al-Batin, on 7 February—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This is in fact a good occasion to meet on such a night although we already met with each other some time ago. [passage omitted]

There is no need to recall the events which took place. Those events were painful and what is more painful is who caused them to happen. I suppose we all know how our friendship with Iraq was on the highest levels. One could have thought of everything but an Arab country occupying another, and what is more painful is which Arab country was the victim. It was Kuwait which performed its duties toward Iraq at all stages. [passage omitted]

I personally never thought the day would come when Saudi forces would clash with Iraqi troops or when we would seek the help of any state in the world to help us against an Arab state. However, what happened could not be helped and the Saudi forces and officials proved they could rise to the level of these incidents. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia is strongly tied to the Gulf states. We are part of the six Gulf states and we cannot allow anybody in the world to separate these six states, and we are among these six. [passage omitted]

We have no enmity toward anyone, whether in the West or in the East. We have always tried to forge strong friendships. When I talk about Arabs, of course, I talk about one country and one nation, and the Arab nation is only one. However, I also talk about other countries in the West and in the East and everywhere with which we have relations. Our relations with the outside world are excellent and balanced. In any case there cannot be a deficiency or shortcoming in one thing which is adherence to the Islamic faith.

We have relations with other countries. We have excellent relations with the United States, Britain, and France, and with all the states of the world. These relations with these states proved themselves when we needed them. They did not ask us for anything and they carried out the duty they were asked to perform. [passage omitted]

The civilians and the military must rally together, at one time we all become civilians, and at another time we all become military to defend the faith and the dear homeland. [passage omitted]

Yes, you hear now about some border problems between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Concerning Yemen, I am fully convinced that in the end there will be neither problems, nor anything which could be sensitive for Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Understanding is currently prevailing through the discussions between Saudi and Yemeni delegations to arrive at the desired results. If we owe them rights, they will get them, and if they owe us rights, we will get them. There are problems between the two countries which we need to resolve.

We want a friendship that everyone desires. This policy is not new, it has been your policy since time immemorial. We now hear and see news on radio and television stations, and other sources, which astonish and surprise us. There must be some people interested in making sedition the foundation and the base for relations between the two countries. By God, we only want peace and stability. Whatever Yemen and Saudi Arabia want, friendship between the two countries should be established on sound foundations and bases which do not change with the circumstances.

We have done our best for our country. There was nothing which we could have done for the benefit of the Saudi society or citizen that we did not do. The evidence of what I am talking about is here in this area where you are or in the central, southern, northern, eastern, or western part of the country.

Our thanks are to God whose blessings are numerous. We are not indebted to anyone except God Almighty. Our budget has been adjusted. As you have heard, we were in debt, naturally due to the circumstances which befell us. I believe that among the things which any country would be proud of is the reduction of its deficit to the lowest level. It is true that the citizen has contributed, in one way or another, to ease this deficit and I think this is one of the duties the citizen can offer to his homeland.

These are very beautiful moments and my happiness is great. We hope that God may protect us from the evil problems, not to have problems with anyone. Praise be to God, we do not need anyone materially or otherwise, we do not want to get into any problems or create problems for others, but if we are forced, then, I believe self-defense would be a legitimate right.

Yes, by God we do not want to create problems for anyone, but it it is impossible to let anyone creat a problem for us and try to harm us. We would not hesitate, not for a moment to defend ourselves. We will never, God willing, attack or harm anyone. However, if anyone stretched out a hand for one inch of this country, we would stretch out ours for a kilometer, I say this in all honesty, God willing, we will defend the country with all our capabilities. [passage omitted]

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CDLR Bulletin No. 32 on Saudi Events

MS0902140195 London CDLR MONITOR in English 27 Jan 95

[Bulletin No. 32 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 27 January—received by fax 6 February]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know—Internecine Feuds Intensify

The feud within the royal family is getting dangerously out of hand. In the Defence Ministry, Sultan and his vice-minister and full brother 'Abd-al-Rahman bitterly disagreed over shares and commissions. Prince Salman does not see eye to eye with the sons of King Sa'ud on the distribution of King Sa'ud's inheritance Nayif is bitterly opposed to Prince Salman over the withdrawal of travel documents and Saudi nationality from 'Abd-al-Rahman, a renowned Erithrean singer and a close friend of Maha al-Sudayri.

Nayif is under tremendous pressure from King Fahd, to close the file on the attempted assassination of Maha al-Sudayri, by two members of the royal family, Salman Bin-Fowwaz Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid Bin-Talal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Since the appointment of Abdul-Aziz Ibn Fahd as a consultant, with ministerial status, some highly indignant members of the al- Sa'ud fear that he is being gradually groomed as the future crown Prince.

There is also conflict over the restrictions on public expenditure. Some members of al-Sa'ud want certain members of the Royal family to cut their huge spending on luxury goods. The majority, however, are demanding an increase in taxation and tariffs which will decrease welfare spending and impoverish millions in the country.

Westminster Meeting

The British Parliament extended a warm welcome to Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, the spokesman of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) Dr al-Mas'ari is a distinguished academic, from a reputable family and formerly imprisoned and tortured by the al-Sa'ud for his Islamic, anti-totalitarian views, and for championing the cause of the oppressed. Dr. al-Mas'ari expounded on the fundamental issues facing Saudi Arabia before an audience of politicians, journalists, academic and "disguised" top Saudi intelligence officers. He explained the reasons for the formation of the committee and described the turbulence and tensions leading to mass arrests and imprisonment without trial in the country.

A member of parliament pointed out that 50 M.P's have already signed a petition deploring the Home Office decision to refuse political asylum to Dr. al-Mas'ari. Amongst those present were many academics from the Gulf area who expressed solidarity with the committee and testified to its popularity and influence in the Gulf area.

A encouraging number of British M.P's have undertaken to publicise the reign of terror of the Saudi regime. The British courts have postponed Dr. al-Mas'ari's appeal for a month. This hearing, God willing, will be a powerful endorsement of the cause of the reformers, and further embarrass, humiliate and isolate the corrupt, crooked and brutal Saudi ruling class.

The committee advises its supporters to be on their guard against the expensive disinformation and misinformation campaign being waged by the al-Sa'ud regime against the committee. The al-Sa'ud area cunningly circulating propaganda falsely purporting to come from the committee. Our supporters should check all records and publications carefully. If in doubt consult with people in a position to distinguish between forgeries and the real thing.

Salman Searches For $50 Billion

The real budget deficit will be much higher than the declared. The al-Sa'ud have failed to raise revenue even though they tried every trick in the book. The burden of liabilities bear down heavily on the al-Sa'ud creating economic havoc and political turbulence.

Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has been entrusted with the task of obtaining a loan on behalf of the Kingdom to the tune of $50 billion in exchange for a 25 per cent reduction in the price of oil. This will affect 5 billion barrels. Experts believe that such a deal is not viable because many petroleum producing countries compete for loans with even a lower mark up. In addition, most international institutions contemptuous of such reductions are convinced that the return of Iraq will create a bargain basement with which even the Saudis will be unable to compete.

In a bid to resolve the problem, the Kingdom has approached one of the ex-presidents of the U.S.A its former friend and a cunning manipulator of the oil market. The al-Sa'ud tried to ingratiate itself with the former president by bribing his son with an offer to mastermind a railway project.

A leopard never changes its spots and this ex-president will do exactly what others have done: i.e. put his personal interest and that of his country first. It goes without saying that if you prostrate yourself at the feet of a false prophet, calamity will most certainly befall you. The desperate al-Sa'ud look as if they are in for yet another hiding from their Western bandits masquerading as serious business associates of the ruling family. If you are willing to make a donkey of yourself there is always someone to ride you.

The USA Makes A Move

The Americans, masters of duplicity, double dealing, and double cross are becoming increasingly agitated by the feuding within the al-Sa'ud family.

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Instability is bad for the American business, as indeed it is for any other business on that scale. The Americans are beginning to fear that Saudi Arabia under the al-Sa'ud is no longer the idyllic, money spinning oasis of stability it once was.

After a close evaluation of individual family members, the Americans seem to be developing new opportunistic strategies and tactics to protect their interest in the Holy Land and this may well mean either ditching the al-Sa'ud or selecting individuals with whom they can do business. The question is what happens if the Americans do not find an individual capable of winning credibility among the impatient angry people. Will they then turn to outsiders?

It is the devout wish of the Satans of the West to appoint their spineless crony, Prince Salman, as chairman of the Consultancy Council and 'Abdullah as chairman of the family council in the hope that they would make timely concessions to the resistance so return to the country. The Americans should know that with this "solution" they are playing with fire, for it is no longer a question of cosmetic but fundamental change as far as the committee is concerned. We shall not stop until we have totally destroyed the rotten and corrupt regime that has defiled our soil, debased our pride, looted our wealth and brutally oppressed our nation.

There are two reasons for the proposed appointment of Salman to the Consultancy council. Firstly, it is an attempt to marginalise Salman and drown him in a sea of organised chaos in the Consultancy Council, or it may be a desperate ploy to give a new lease of life to the council and legitimacy to the al-Sa'ud. In the case of 'Abdullah. The Americans want to contain the family's actions and control its purchasing power.

Disappearing Cash

The centre of international transfers in Geneva reported that a colossal amount of money was transferred out of the Kingdom over the last two months. Some observers in the investment markets of Europe and America claim that Saudis, and especially members of the royal family, are desperately seeking new investments. A memorandum was circulated to every ban in the Kingdom prohibiting the transfer of more than 50,000 Riyals at any one time outside the Kingdom.

However, as usual, owners of capital, especially members of royal family found a way out of this problem. There is grave concern for the future of the economy among these unpatriotic villains and most discussions centre on the best way to invest money abroad.

Total Collapse In December 1995.

An international economic experts visited the City of London, one of the most the world [sentence as published]. There, he met many bankers and economists connected with the Middle-East. The professionals were unanimous that the Kingdom was heading for certain economic collapse by November or December 1995. The expert takes a different view—he is convinced that the Armageddon will be much sooner. The British " "experts" he said had been duped by the massive media falsification campaign into believing that the Saudi economy was still on an even keel. The expert is certain that in the next two months even more economic secrets and confidential information will be exposed and that the "experts" will sing a different tune. Then there will be more realistic discussions about the collapse of the Saudi economy. Many gloomy reports were published in specialised economic magazines for the past weeks.

Reformers Trial

The appearance of the detained reformers before a committee of senior scholars signals a desire to end the disagreement between the heads of the royal family and important and influential members of the family who are pressing for the release of the reformers. Salman and Sultan on the other hand, insist that the reformers be indefinitely detained.

The King, surprisingly, has made no secret of his preference for release, but the malign power of Salman frustrated Fahd. Hence the face-saving idea of the committee.

The Americans, having learned their lesson after backing the Shah of Iran against sound advice have now embraced the doctrine of Realpolitik. They, too, are pressing for the release of detainees fully aware that continued detention of the scholars will result in their own ideological and economic destruction in Saudi Arabia.

Sultan's Jet

Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz gave orders for the relocation of ninety Saudi Airlines employees to re-decorate his private jet. Those ninety employees represent only the supervisory staff, a large number of technicians and assistants work under them.

This "great national project" still continues after two month's work and the cost is expected to be in the region of tens of millions of Riyals.

Saudi Refused

A memo justifying racial discrimination against their own people were circulated by the Interior Ministry. Companies contracted by the Interior Ministry for the maintenance and cleaning of the Ministry's buildings have been told not to employ Saudi managers! Some of the people responsible for this monstrous insult to our nation actually have a skin colour that classified them as inferior race in certain parts of the U.S. That means that some of the people who thus discriminate against their own people will be fit only to be road-sweepers and cleaners in the American South!

Shaykh Al-'Aqla Sacked After 37 Years Of Service

The highly respected Senior Scholar, Shaykh Hammud al-'Aqla was surprised by a letter from the Imam University Management relieving him of his teaching post in

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the Qasim branch. When the Shaykh asked for an explanation the management's excuse was lack of finance. When the Shaykh offered to teach free of charge, the manager truthfulls told him that money had nothing to do with his dismissal. The Shaykh then realised that the management wanted him out of the university.

The Shaykh spent 37 years in the teaching profession and many of his former students are he is well known for his courageous., government critical and independent actions.

Saudi Urges Kuwait Towards Oppression

Sources in the Kuwaiti State Security Department informed us about the arrival of a Saudi Intelligence Delegation to co-operate with the Kuwaiti Intelligence Department against "subversives" which, of course, equates with anti-totalitarian freedom fighters.

The Committee learned that detention orders were issued, but were over-ruled by higher authorities. The Saudi regime is worried and annoyed by the degree of support and sympathy for the Committee in the Arabian Peninsula generally, and in Kuwait particularly. The military attache in the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait, Ibrahim al- Husayyin, was ordered to intensify his own department's surveillance of the Committee's sympathisers, especially the group, "Ansar al- Haqq", (Truth Supporters).

The Committee has obtained detailed information on Kuwaiti detainees in the Kingdom and their living conditions which will be published very soon. The Kuwaiti people are puzzled by the Kuwaiti Government's interest in Kuwaiti detainees Iraq, but not in Saudi Arabia.

Nayif's Disappearance

Nayif's non-appearance at many official meetings in the last few days has been the subject of much comment. This notorious tyrant, is meekly and tamely at his wife's bedside who is in hospital after an attempt on her life. Close associates of Nayif, however, have another explanation. They say that the dutiful husband's state of health is worrying his friends, especially his frequent tendency to slump into an unconscious state. His doctors say that this can be attributed to an increase in the consumption of his favourite brew! His favourite brew reaches parts that others don't!

More Embezzlement

Prince Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz confiscated a park in Al-Tayeff last month and fenced it off completely from the public for whose use it was originally intended.

Another prince confiscated a piece of land in Medina, of 100,000 square metres, which had been set aside for the building of a training centre for disabled people. It would appear in this particular prince's case, that priority goes to the mentally disabled.

Crime On The Rise

The crime rate has risen dramatically in Mecca. There were two group killings within a few days of each other. In the first incident a woman and her servant were killed, in the second an entire family was wiped out in a horrible manner. The killer used an electric saw to decapitate them.

In Medina, near the Prophets Mosque, a young woman of 18 was kidnapped and raped.

Two students were injured by a gang of criminals as they tried to prevent them kidnapping a woman.

A number of criminals assaulted two shaykhs who exposed a vice ring in Madina.

Complaint From The People Of 'Afif

The Committee received a telegram from the people of Zalim 'Afif, al-Bijadiyah and al-Qarin complaining of total neglect by the Government.

New Arrests

The young man, Salih 'Abdallah al-Judy', was arrested in Qasim for the second time. During his first arrest, he was severely tortured.

In al-Jawf area, the young man 'Agla al-Khatim al-Sirhani, a student in Imam University in Qasim was arrested.

United Arab Emirates

WAKH Reports Conclusion of Secretary Brown's Visit

JN1002080795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Feb (WAKH)—U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown left Abu Dhabi this morning at the end of a one-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the framework of a tour of a number of countries of the region.

During his visit, the U.S. secretary conveyed a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from U.S. President Bill Clinton on bilateral relations and ways of fostering them. He held talks with Sa'id Ghabbash, UAE minister of economy and trade, on enhancing and developing bilateral economic and trade cooperation and a number of international economic issues.

Yemen

House Speaker on Negotiations With Saudi Arabia

NC0802181395 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Sami Kulayb in Paris]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni House of Representative Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar has tried to give a positive impression of his talks in Saudi Arabia, which have been continuing for about eight days. But, indirectly suggesting that the negotiations, which may drag on for another week, may reach a deadlock, Shaykh al-Ahmar raised the possibility of taking recourse to an international tribunal to solve the border problems between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In a telephone interview AL-SAFIR conducted with him, al-Ahmar denied differences exist between him and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, but he pointed out the possibility that the president may be receiving "incorrect or exaggerated information."

He played down the importance of the military buildup on both sides of the border, saying that the troops are deep inside each country's territory, not facing each other and not posing a threat to anyone.

Al-Ahmar began his statement to AL-SAFIR by saying that "the atmosphere is good and the talks are moving in the right direction. There is a relaxation, and we are trying to restore things and relations to normal with a view to serving the interests of the two countries and establishing full solidarity and cooperation."

Asked about the "unresolved points" at the negotiations, he said: "Everything is moving in the right direction, the channels are fit for the success of the talks, the climate is right, and God willing, we will achieve everything the two sides desire for our fraternal relations."

Asked when he expects the talks to conclude, al-Ahmar answered: "We do not know. Perhaps tomorrow, or perhaps they will continue for a few days or for a week. What is important is that we reach an agreement; for the sake of this, difficulties and hard work become easy."

Asked if "military apprehension" has now been eased, he said: "The military option should not be a card in the hands of either side. We are all brothers; we are one people. We should not threaten to use this option, either between Yemen and Saudi Arabia or among the countries of the Islamic nation. We all ought to save our military capabilities for defending the Islamic and Arab nation against its enemies."

Asked if the negotiators had agreed to completely pull out the troops from the border region, al-Ahmar replied: "These rumors are exaggerated. If some units are indeed deployed, they are not face to face. There are some units and military positions deep inside the two countries, but this is not directed against anyone."

Al-Ahmar viewed the al-Ta'if Agreement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen as "a staging point and one of the bases" in the talks between the two sides.

On whether Yemen still insists on discussing the agreement as an integrated whole, al-Ahmar said: "Yes, this is what is now happening. The agreement is complete, comprehensive, and it deals with all aspects of relations between the two countries."

Asked if the Saudis had accepted this, he said: "There is no rejection from here or there, but there are reservations."

He added: "There is common accord that the agreement is the basis. It provides the constant principles on which everybody agrees."

On President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's proposal that the two sides refer the matter to the International Court of Justice if they fail to reach an agreement, al-Ahmar said: "As you know, the al-Ta'if Agreement refers to this possibility in case of a dispute. But, God willing, we will not reach that stage, because His Majesty King Fahd, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and all of us desire not to; therefore, we do not need a third party to mediate."

Asked if this is completely ruled out, he only said: "That is possible."

He said preparations for a meeting between Fahd and Salih is "a priority and part of my mission" in Saudi Arabia."

Al-Ahmar denied there are any differences between himself and President Salih and said: "There are absolutely no differences. If the president receives incorrect or exaggerated information, the one who is present sees what the absent cannot see."

Al-Iryani, Envoys Discuss Saudi Memo of Understanding

JN0902181295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received U.S. Ambassador David Newton, French Ambassador [name indistinct], and 'Abbas Muhsin, ambassador of the republic of [words indistinct].

The foreign minister discussed bilateral ties with each ambassador. He also discussed with them the issue of reaching a memorandum of understanding between the Yemeni Republic and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the border issue.

Russian Message Welcomes Yemeni-Saudi Negotiations

JN0902210995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, along with

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Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, vice president of the republic, today received the ambassador of the Russian Federation to our country.

The ambassador conveyed to the brother president a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on bilateral ties and cooperation, as well as regional developments and international issues of common concern. The message also welcomed the ongoing talks between ourcountry and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stressing support for all efforts to end the Yemeni-Saudi border problem peacefully to enhance good-neighborliness between the two countries and peace, security, and stability in the region. In addition, the message stressed Russia's eagerness to promote its traditional and firm ties with our country in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation.

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Saddam Chairs Meeting of Civilian, Military Officials

JN0902171895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1652 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting which comprised Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid; Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the al-Basrah and Dhi Qar party organizations; and 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraq command of the Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Maysan and Wasit party organizations.

Also present at the meeting were Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals; Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, minister of housing and reconstruction and acting minister of transport and telecommunications; Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir, minister of irrigation; the Army chief of staff; and the 3d Army Corps commander.

Paper Terms Clinton Report to Congress 'Ridiculous'

JN1002113795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL- THAWRAH has said the Clinton Administration has continued its feverish attempts to perpetuate the Iraq sanctions because it wants to continue to drain the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes' treasuries, as it has been doing over the past four and one-half years.

In an article today entitled "Clinton's Fallacies and Crude Lies," the paper adds: The report the U.S. President has sent to the Congress on Iraq is extremely ridiculous. It is full of fallacies and crude lies that are not hard to refute and contest by fair-minded political observers.

The paper goes on to say: Although Iraq has fulfilled its commitments as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions, as attested to by the UN Special Commission and several permanent and nonpermanent members of the UNSC, Clinton was shameless enough to repeat lies and allegations that cannot be corroborated by concrete evidence. In this report, Clinton might have sought to appease the Republicans, who are currently controlling the Congress. He might have chosen to do so because the Iraq issue was the only thing he could lean on to achieve that end. Similarly, he might have sought to distract attention from his financial and sexual scandals, which have become public knowledge in the United States.

The paper says: Clinton has said that the United States is planning to perpetuate the UN-ordered sanctions clamped on Iraq. We have no doubts about U.S. plans in this regard. Nonetheless, we would like to pose the following questions: Is it the United States or the United Nations which is empowered to do so? In case it is the United Nations which is empowered to do so—which is true—has the United Nations authorized Clinton to perpetuate the sanctions on its behalf?

The paper adds: Certainly, Clinton is aware that the position of the UNSC toward the Iraq sanctions is now different from what it was three or two years ago. Similarly, he must be well aware that there are rifts in the anti-Iraq coalition created by war criminal Bush, and that the U.S. sanctions position at the UNSC no longer enjoys the support of most UNSC members. It is this fact which is disturbing Clinton and prompting him to lie, misrepresent facts, and promote them on the international scene.

The paper goes on to say: Clinton believes that the pretext regarding missing Kuwaitis, which is being examined by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the three-way committee in Geneva, provides the best possible grounds for perpetuating the Iraq sanctions. Nonetheless, it seems that Clinton's memory is failing him badly. For he has forgotten that the issue regarding American MIA's in Vietnam is very much alive even now. It is still an outstanding issue between the United States and Vietnam at present although 20 years have passed since the end of the war between the two sides.

The paper wonders why Clinton is displaying such an eagerness to determine the whereabouts of the missing Kuwaitis at a time when he has failed to demonstrate a similar eagerness about the whereabouts of American MIA's in Vietnam.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: That Clinton believes that these flagrant pretexts and allegations, which he is vainly promoting, are enough to convince the UNSC of the need to perpetuate the Iraq sanctions is highly questionable, particularly since these lies and allegations betray a hostile anti-Iraqi U.S. policy line. Moreover, these fabrications reflect a political stand that has nothing to do with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Daily: Steadfastness Challenging 'Ludicrous' Embargo

JN0902125795 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Feb 9, INA—AL-THAWRAW daily of Baghdad has today said the U.S. Administration policy against Iraq has been disclosed and its stance became isolated as a result of world countries realisation of facts, backgrounds and exposed goals of the 30-state U.S.-led aggression and its interference in the domestic affairs of the region's countries with the aim of plundering their national riches.

A daily article said attempts of this administration to create pretexts and justifications for maintaining the blockade imposed on Iraq would not benefit it much as

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its opportunism and double standard policy had become so apparent that it had become so weak to go on trying to impose its imperialistic hegemony on world countries.

The daily pointed to the U.S. Administration's latest attempt in offering a shaky justification to deface the fact whenever the date for the periodic review of the sanctions on Iraq approached. That justification was the alleged Iraq's possesion of Kuwaiti equipment as allegedly captured by Iraq and the issue of the missing Kuwaitis while it does completely know, as well as the world, that Iraq had fulfilled all its obligations towards the United Nations Security Council resolutions. It has concluded that America's such attempts have become ludicrous and the Iraqis steadfastness and challenge is yielding its fruit.

Kurdish Parties Call For End of Fighting, Dialogue

NC0902160895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of 22 Kurdish parties met in Irbil yesterday. The conferees discussed the current situation in Kurdistan. At the end of the three-hour meeting, the Kurdish party representatives reviewed the current developments in Kurdistan, particularly the infighting there.

The participants issued a press communique at the end of their meeting. They called for an immediate halt to the fighting in Kurdistan and for a dialogue to pacify and normalize the situation in the region. They also called for reviving the role of the Kurdistan parliament and government.

Allied Overflights Protested to Arab League Chief

NC0902184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has delivered a memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat, including a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid outlining the violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft. The letter points out that the number of aerial sorties over Iraqi territories by these aircraft totaled 8,917 during the period 1 July-31 December 1994. The letter described these aerial sorties as flagrant violations of the inviolability and sovereignty of the Iraqi air space and threaten the Iraqi people's security, safety, freedom, and independence, and as a of cause extreme material and moral damage to Iraq and its people.

U.S. Interception, Search of Vessel Protested to UN

JN1002113995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has again strongly protested the repeated hostile U.S. violations against the Iraqi vessel "al- Tharthar".

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali published today, Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, said that these illegal acts constitute a flagrant violation of Iraq's security, national sovereignty, the UN Charter, and international law.

The letter added: The vessel "al-Tharthar" came under a fresh U.S. assault on 19 January when the U.S. frigate No. 48 intercepted it near the al-Bakr terminal. The commander of the U.S. frigate made the vessel crewmen and captain sail at slow speed under the scrutiny of a U.S. helicopter and a U.S. boat. In the course of this aggressive act, the vessel and its crewmen were subjected to provocative searches. Moreover, force was used against them. A force consisting of 19 U.S. military personnel, armed with light weapons, boarded the vessel "al-Tharthar". Some of them were carrying video cameras, whereas others carried photographic cameras. Using the threat of force, they photographed the vessel and searched its tanks before withdrawing to the frigate.

The vessel "al-Tharthar" has recently come under similar hostile U.S. actions.

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MA'ARIV Corrects Report on Rabin's Golan Remarks

TA1002100595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Contrary to what MA'ARIV reported yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not say in the meeting held by the Labor Knesset faction earlier this week to discuss Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani's bill for the entrenchment of the status of the Golan Heights that a "98-percent pullback does not constitute a withdrawal from the Golan Heights." MA'ARIV regrets the inaccurate report.

Replying to a question by one of the participants, Rabin said that if Israel remained only on the western edge of the Golan Plateau this would not constitute a withdrawal from the Golan. Qahalani persisted: "Do you mean to say that if we remain only in Kefar Haruv, this would not constitute a withdrawal from the Golan?" It has been confirmed by Rabin that he replied in the affirmative, and that he added that he would not consider "remaining only on the western edge" a withdrawal from the Golan or a violation of his pledge on the issue on the eve of the elections.

The prime minister was responding to Deputy Minister Masha Lubelsky, who reminded him of the resolutions adopted by the Labor party convention on the eve of the elections and of his own assertions that Israel "will not pull back from the Golan" a few days before the 1992 elections. Rabin said that "not pulling back from the Golan" does not mean "remaining on the Golan." Commenting on this, 'Imanu'el Zismann said that Rabin's remarks implied ceding "98 percent" of the Golan's territory and, according to participants in the meeting, Rabin did not deny this.

[A report by Shim'on Weiss on page 3 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 10 February adds that the Golan Settlements Committee yesterday issued a "harsh condemnation" of Rabin's remarks. "The communique released by the committee says that Rabin has abandoned Israel's security and that his policy has been a total failure and will lead to capitulation to the Syrian despot.

["The communique goes on to say that Rabin, who on the eve of the elections promised not to lend a hand to a pullback from the Golan even in times of peace, has lost his credibility, is losing his cool, and is deluding himself and the nation. His policy will not lead to peace, but to surrender to the dictates of Syrian President al-Asad and his protege, Fathi al-Shaqaqi. Furthermore, in view of the fact that he has forsaken Israel's security, he is not fit to be the prime minister.

["It should be pointed out that the communique issued by the Golan Settlements Committee—which includes representatives of kibbutzim and whose spokesman is a Labor party member and a resident of Kibbutz Elrom—is one of the harshest and most unbridled anti- Rabin pronouncements made by the committee in recent times."]

Syria Said Willing To Forge Ties After Withdrawal

TA1002115795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syria is reportedly willing to establish at least a modicum of diplomatic relations with Israel after the first stage of a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights, it was learned yesterday.

Until recently, Syria was insisting that any normalization with Israel would occur only after a complete withdrawal.

Syria apparently changed its view after President Hafiz al-Asad met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in October. It remains unclear whether Syria would establish consular links or something less than that after an initial withdrawal.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wants the Syrians to establish full diplomatic relations after the first phase of withdrawal, in keeping with the pace of the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty. The first stage of the two-phased Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and exchange of ambassadors occurred approximately nine months after the peace treaty was signed.

During Clinton's visit to Damascus, differences also narrowed somewhat on the duration of the Golan withdrawal. Syria, which wanted Israel's withdrawal to be completed within several months, agreed that the Israeli pullback could take up to 18 months. Rabin has said that withdrawal should be over a four-year period.

Earlier this week, Rabin indicated to the Labor Party Knesset faction that he does not think he is violating his 1992 campaign promise not to "go down" from the Golan, as long as there is some Israeli presence "on the ridge."

In a Washington speech last week, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer said Israel would insist on retaining its early-warning station on Mt. Hermon, but would not object to Syria building its own early warning station there as well.

Ben-Eli'ezer said Israel could not rely on the U.S. to man the early-warning station in Israel's place and relay the intelligence data.

In a briefing for reporters earlier this week, a very senior Israeli official cited al-Asad as saying that if Israeli retention of early-warning stations were a prerequisite for an Israeli-Syrian deal, al-Asad would prefer the status quo.

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Lubrani: al-Asad Using Hizballah To Attain Goals

TA1002135195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 95 pp 1, 10

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, has accused the Syrian president of taking advantage of "his expanding foothold" in Lebanon to enforce a policy of terror against Israel.

In a special interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Lubrani said President al-Asad is exploiting Hizballah's terror potential to attain his goals with regard to Israel. "Hizballah is the lever," Lubrani said. According to him, the fingerprints left by Syria in the activities against Israel in Lebanon are "indiscreet" and are meant to serve Syrian interests in light of the freeze in the negotiations with Israel.

Lubrani added: "The Syrians are using Hizballah and its fighters to bring about the disintegration of the security zone and hurt its residents. This is a deliberate campaign to hurt the self-confidence of the residents of the south and to trigger fratricide within the Shiite community."

Lubrani cautioned that if the situation continues, "Israel will do what must be done." He refused to elaborate on what he has in mind. "Only Syria can stop the terror now, and whoever hears what I am saying will know what I mean," he said. Lubrani emphasized that Israel does not plan to abandon the South Lebanese Army fighters to the whims of the Syrians and Hizballah.

Referring to the political negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, Lubrani warned of "President al-Asad's unequivocal dictate to the government in Beirut that nothing will budge in Lebanon if Israel does not agree to Syria's conditions."

It has been learned that on the eve of its departure for talks in Washington, al-Asad instructed a Lebanese security delegation not to deal with issues pertaining to Israel's security or Hizballah's activities. "I forbid you to commit yourselves to disarm Hizballah," al-Asad ordered.

The only mandate received by the Lebanese delegation was to negotiate the abrogation of the U.S. travel ban on Lebanon.

Al-Asad Said Waiting for Netanyahu's Rise to Power

TA1002114095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace talks, believes that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has made up his mind not to make progress in the peace talks at the moment but wait for the rise to power of Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu in the 1996 elections, a U.S. diplomat in Cairo claimed this week.

A report received yesterday by the Foreign Ministry from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo noted that Christopher Ross, the U.S. Ambassador in Damascus, also believes that al-Asad has decided to wait before making progress on the peace process. However, Ambassador Ross believes that this is due to his wish to devote his efforts to domestic affairs, particularly to strengthen the status of his son Bashir.

According to the report, al-Asad believes that no progress whatsoever has actually been made in the negotiations between Israel and Syria since the Madrid conference in November 1991. According to Ambassador Ross, the Syrian president now believes that Rabin is too weak to make the necessary decisions to attain a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Netanyahu on Likud Unity, Political Plan, Oslo Process

TA1002121295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 95 p A4

["Exclusive" report by Nitzan Horowitz in France]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu stated during a visit to Paris that he is fully confident that Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan will not cause a split in the national camp. Netanyahu cited Eytan's remarks to the effect that he will not be the one who will prevent the opposition from rallying around one candidate, "and I have no reason not to believe him."

Netanyahu said he was very encouraged by recent polls giving him and Rabin an equal popularity rate of 40 percent, and noted that together with Eytan's popularity this spells an unequivocal victory for the national camp.

He rejected David Levi's criticism, saying that every person is entitled to run for the leadership, but that he hoped the Likud had learned its lesson from the big splits in the past.

He rebuffed the criticism of his latest political pronouncements, emphasizing that he had not presented a new political plan but merely reiterated the Likud's main principles. According to him, after it rises to power, the Likud will set up a self-rule in the territories under Israel's security control, in contrast with Rabin's policy, which leads "to the establishment of a terror Palestinian state in all the territories."

Netanyahu repeatedly asserted that there is no need to abolish the Oslo agreement "because this agreement has been violated countless times by 'Arafat, has been drained of any content, and is for all intents and purposes null and void. We will honor any international

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agreement, but not unilaterally," he stated. Referring to faits accomplis, mainly the Palestinian presence in Gaza and Jericho, he stressed that the Likud would not reoccupy Gaza but would inform 'Arafat that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is reassuming the freedom to take all actions necessary to foil terror everywhere.

Addressing a large Jewish audience in Paris last night, the Likud leader called on the government to immediately close down Orient House, which he called "the PLO's headquarters in Jerusalem." He declared that if Rabin does not do it, the Likud government would do it as soon as it rises to power.

Netanyahu lashed out at the Palestinian Authority, claiming that it abets terror and that all its operations against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are a "put-on." "To date they have not caught even one killer, even though there are killers within the Palestinian police force itself," he said.

Referring to the proposals to form a national unity government Netanyahu asserted that this would depend on its basic guidelines. According to him, the Likud would be willing to join such a government if it decides not to pull the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the center of Arab towns in the territories and if it decides that a self-rule, rather than a state, will be established in the territories. According to him, the government's onslaught against these ideas proves that Rabin has endorsed the positions of the extreme left.

Netanyahu emphasized that his visit to France is indicative of his intention to deepen relations with Europe. He angrily rebuffed Shim'on Peres' attacks against him. According to him, nobody will agree to the "bolshevik approach" of the government, which wants to prevent the opposition from voicing its opinions in the world.

Netanyahu, who was escorted by Shin Bet bodyguards, conferred with Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, who is running for the presidency, and with Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who is considered the strong man in the French administration.

Rabin Criticizes EU Figures for Jerusalem Visit

TA0902195195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with the EU representatives and criticized their Orient House meeting. Mr. Rabin elaborated on Israel's difficulties in the face of the wave of terrorism and noted that the EU has promised to make many donations to the Palestinians, but kept a very small part of its promises.

The prime minister also criticized the negative balance of trade between Israel and Europe and noted that Israel is being discriminated against in marketing its agricultural produce and is not being included in discussions on research and development.

The visitors promised that Israel will be allowed to join EU research and development plans. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that he understands Israel's terror problems, but that he fears that a prolonged closure might harm the stability of the agreement with the PLO.

Sarid Rejects International Mediation in PLO Talks

TA1002093995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli officials say Israel will not negotiate with the Palestinians through international mediation, American or other. Israel wants direct negotiations. There have been ups and downs, and while the present situation is one of the downs, Israel expects the situation to improve. Israel does not speak in terms of a crisis in the negotiations, rather of an anticipated disagreement. The Israelis and the Palestinians, who convened around a negotiating table yesterday, reiterated well-known stands on some well-known issues, and the clash was unavoidable. For that reason, the talks were reserved, businesslike, and inflexible. A crisis did not break out; it was there all along. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian appeal to the Americans was a futile move, as far as Israel is concerned. Minister Yosi Sarid told us that Israel has always negotiated directly, and not via the Americans, and that is how it intends to continue. [passage omitted]

Document on PA Activity Criticizes Foreign Consuls

TA0902135195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Feb 95 p 12

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A document about the Palestinian Authority's [PA] activities in Jerusalem, which was prepared at the police commissioner's bureau, describes most of the foreign consuls in Jerusalem as "the devil's advocates."

The document, which was submitted to the police minister, includes practical recommendations on how to enforce the "Jerusalem Chapter" in the Gaza-Jericho First Law, which was passed approximately one month ago, in order to put a stop to the PLO's quasi-governmental political activities in the city.

Among other things, the document mentions Palestinian police activities in Jerusalem and intelligence activity by Jibril al-Rujub's Preventive Security Service, including intelligence gathering, running agents, threatening officials, and maintaining an armed presence of security operatives in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

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Paper Outlines Plan To Curb PA Activities in Jerusalem

TA1002122395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 95 p A2

[Report by military affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] A paper drafted by defense establishment officials, on organized political or governmental Palestinian activities in Jerusalem, states: "The clauses of the law on the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement that deal with the restriction of Palestinian activity and of Palestinian institutions of governmental nature in Jerusalem had been initiated by us in a bid to create a legal tool to deal with a phenomenon which has received new momentum since the Oslo agreement."

The paper lists 13 Jerusalem-based Palestinian institutions which, according to the authors, are of either a political or a governmental nature: Orient House; the 'Awqaf and religious affairs bureau; Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction (operating in the al-Ram neighborhood in the periphery of Jerusalem); Supreme Palestinian Industrial Council; Supreme Palestinian Health Council; Supreme Palestinian Housing Council; Palestinian Statistics Center; Palestinian Land and Water Institute; Palestinian Energy Center; the Palestinian Radio and Television Authority, headed by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash; National Palestinian Commission for Citizens Rights; the al-Quds University; and the al-Quds Open University.

The paper's authors recommend compiling a dossier on each of the above institutions, to comprise full information on the institution. The dossiers will examined by legal experts, which will allow Israel to take action against the institutions.

The paper further states: "Before taking enforcement action against an institution in legally solid cases, we recommend warning the Palestinian Authority [PA] of our intention to act to close certain institutions in Jerusalem, and advising the PA to take this step itself at once." The paper sets definite time limits for such a course of action.

The authors of the paper assume that the PA will not comply with this Israeli demand. "If the PA does not comply with our demand—which is likely to occur—a closure order against such institutions should be issued, to be enforced by Israel Police."

The paper distinguishes between institutions which belong to and are operated by the PA and institutions belonging to or operated by the PLO, "as the latter may operate in Jerusalem unless explicitly banned by a government order."

With regard to Orient House, the defense officials write that it has been argued that since it had existed prior to the establishment of the PA and the Gaza and Jericho agreement, it does not belong or is subordinate to the PA; rather, it is a part of the Madrid process.

The paper outlines the characteristics of the Palestinian activities in Jerusalem: "They hold functions, conferences, meetings, rallies, processions, commemoration days; carry out law enforcement and policing (including the register of complaints, investigations, legal action, verdicts), intelligence operations (Jibril al-Rujub's preventive security, the gathering of intelligence), suspect roundup, intelligence-gathering interrogations; they use agents, threaten officials to carry out a deed or a misdeed as necessary for the PA; (usually armed) administration officials visit and operate in Jerusalem."

"Since the prohibited activities are a complicated issue," the authors of the paper write, "evidence should be collected by all the defense elements. They should act in the following manner: Information and data on activities should be amassed; if we can prove, after checking the information and data, that the activities are in violation of the law, an order banning them will be issued. Each case will be examined individually, and the possibility of police intervention in terminating illegal activities should not be ruled out.

"The activities of PA office holders, or PA ministers, present a certain difficulty. On the one hand, they visit Jerusalem, and their visits are usually working sessions; on the other, they are key PA figures, and an affront to them would have political repercussions."

The paper authors expect the Palestinians to react vehemently to the closure of their institutions. "The Palestinians have various public relations apparatuses and rich experience in the sphere. They will hold news conferences, give media interviews, and make inflammatory sermons on the Temple Mount."

"If we decide to go all the way," the paper concludes, "we should remember from past experience that when we are firm, the Palestinians get the message."

[A related report by Eytan Rabin on page A1 of the same newspaper adds: "The defense establishment paper voices apprehension about the rising weight of Abu-Dis," an area "where a concentration of Palestinian institutions may materialize." The report further cites the document as saying that " 'influential elements, such as the Foreign Ministry, the Jerusalem Municipality, and the Religious Affairs Ministry' should be involved in action against the illegally operating Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem."

Police To Summon Mufti Regarding Sermon Remarks

TA0902185095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Announcer-read report]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Police sources told our correspondent Kayid Zahir a short while ago that the Jerusalem district police have decided to summon Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri, the Palestinian mufti, to the police headquarters after he returns from abroad. He will be warned about the remarks he made in his Friday sermon on 3 February, the first Friday of Ramadan. Among other things, the remarks, deemed provocative against the State of Israel, involved destroying Israel and Muslims' taking control of the settlements.

The sources added that the summons does not signify an interrogation, despite the fact that the police investigation in this regard proves the remarks' gravity.

Lebanese Visit Relatives Held in al-Khiyam Prison

NC0902112795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Red Cross bus conveyed 15 people to al-Khiyam Prison to visit their jailed relatives under an agreement signed between the international organization and Israel.

The bus passed the Kafr Tibnit crossing at 0830 today. The visitors will return tonight.

Zofar Area Farm Lands Turned Over to Jordan

TA0902123495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a ceremony in Naharayim today, Israel completed handing over sovereignty of the enclave to Jordan, as stipulated in the peace agreement. This morning, Israel handed over farm lands in the area of Zofar, after handing over lands in the 'Arava earlier last month.

The two countries also signed three agreements in Naharayim today. The agreements regulate tourism, military liaison, and border-crossing procedures.

Ramon Dismisses Reports of Imminent Return to Labor

TA1002073695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to reports that he is about sign an agreement to return to the Labor Party, Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon said it was much ado about nothing. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, Ramon revealed that he had met with Labor Secretary General Zvili, and that he told Zvili he adhered to his intention to continue heading the Ram list in the Histadrut. If Labor is seeking a merger or an alignment, it should make an offer, which we will discuss. Ramon added that if he was to return to Labor, the party should first repeal the letter which had divested him of party membership, although that would be a mere formality.

Ramon said he will demand a thorough discussion of his return, because he is awaited with flowers by some Labor members and with swords by others. I will not return to Labor to be sliced with swords, Ramon said.

He refused to comment on Minister Shahal's harsh criticism against him, saying Shahal does not merit a reaction. He added, however, that he and his associates had left the Labor Party because ministers such as Shahal were then making every possible mistake. Some Labor people never learn anything, he said.

Our correspondent reported earlier that Labor Secretary General Zvili is expected to inform his party representatives in the Histadrut this morning that an agreement arranging Ramon's return to Labor had been achieved.

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Phase 2 of Israeli Withdrawal Completed

JN0902171395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All the occupied Jordanian territories reverted to Jordanian sovereignty today after the Israeli forces implemented phase 2 of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories in the al-Baqurah area in northern Jordan and south of the al-Ghamr farmland up to al-Mallahat south of the Dead Sea. The Jordanian Armed Forces entered these territories, took up positions, and hoisted the Jordanian flag there. Military ceremonies were held by the Jordanian and Israeli sides on the occasion.

It is to be recalled that phase 1 of the Israeli withdrawal was completed on 30 January in implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The area of Jordanian territory recovered in the al- Baqurah area totals 830 donums, while the area of land recovered in the Wadi al-'Arabah area totals approximately 340 square km.

King Visits 'Liberated' Areas

JN0902204295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel completed today the second and the final phase of its troop withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories. The withdrawal took place in the al-Baqurah area in the north and in the area of al-Ghamr in the south of the Kingdom. The Jordanian Armed Forces moved into the liberated areas and hoisted the Jordanian flag.

The withdrawal came in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October last year.

His majesty the king visited the liberated areas and congratulated Jordanian people on restoring full Jordanian sovereignty over their lands.

During the withdrawal ceremony, Jordan and Israel signed two agreements on borders and crossing points and initialed one on tourism.

Foreign Minister Says Government Opposes Alliances

JN0902175795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan is against the policy of alliances and axes, the pursuance of which has resulted in difficulties and disasters for inter-Arab relations. In a statement to the Egyptian magazine al-MUSAWWAR published in its latest issue, al-Kabariti said that Jordan is a basic party to the peace process. He said that there is a partnership for peace comprising the entire international community, as well as the Arabs and Israelis. He added that the Jordanian participation in the four-way meeting in Cairo last week was in response to sisterly Egypt and to our desire to cooperate with the big sister to support negotiation efforts on all tracks, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to enable them to arrive at the logical conclusion of restoring full Arab rights on the basis of the land-for-peace principle and in accordance with international resolutions.

Al-Kabaraiti said: We will support the Syrian position in all that will be requested from us to achieve Syria's demands in restoring its territory fully and the situation which existed before 5 June 1967. He said that Jordan also supports the Lebanese position and demands implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 to enable Lebanon to restore its rights in full.

On the Jerusalem and settlements issue, the minister said that the Jerusalem and settlements issues have been postponed until the Palestinian-Israeli final status negotiations are held. He said that continued settlement may result in further tension which we all in the region seek to avoid so that the peace process would not be interrupted.

In response to a question on violence in the region, al-Kabariti said: I believe that there is a very large gap between the concept of international legitimacy and the concept of international justice, and it is high time the gap between the two concepts was narrowed. It is also high time the United Nations and all forums and quarters interested in human rights adopted a clear interpretation and definition of the concept of terrorism.

Discusses Peace, 'Terrorism,' Arab Issues

JN0902201195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, in Amman, by Kamal Tarabayh, in the studio, on 9 February; from "The Political Week" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tarabayh] His Excellency Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, welcome to this program.

[Al-Kabariti] Thank you.

[Tarabayh] A semi-expanded Arab-Israeli summit was held in Cairo last week. It was the first of its kind in modern Middle Eastern history whether in war or peacetime. It is noted that the Syrian media have criticized this summit. My question is the following: Has the Cairo Arab-Israeli summit come to erase the results of the Alexandria tripartite summit among the leaders of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Kabariti] We have not viewed the summit as such. Rather, after we received the Egyptian invitation, we viewed it as a serious attempt to break the stalemate on all tracks of negotiations. We viewed it as a chance through which Jordan can contribute alongside Egypt and Palestine to activating the Palestinian-Israeli track

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and to help activate other tracks. Under no circumstances shall we accept that this summit be viewed as an attempt to set up a bloc or alliance against any party whatsoever.

[Tarabayh] It has been noted that at the Cairo summit, Yitzhaq Rabin managed to obtain a common stand by the participating countries denouncing acts of violence and terrorism. Some Arabs said that Yitzhaq Rabin has managed to persuade the Arab parties of his stand—the Israeli stand—on the terrorism issue. What is your response?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that all of us have managed to arrive at a joint vision regarding the issue of denouncing violence and terrorism. I do not believe that there is any Arab party that does not denounce violence and terrorism. The issue is linked to our definition of terrorism. This is an issue on which we have not reached an agreement. As for us in Jordan, our stand on the violence and terrorism issue is known. This stand has nothing to do with any specific event. It is a principled stand. We do not accept that violence or terrorism be exercised to achieve any political ends.

[Tarabayh] Do you still consider resisting the occupation, especially in southern Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories a legitimate course by those forces which still carry arms and resist?

[Al-Kabariti] Resisting the occupation is a legitimate right acknowledged by all international conventions. This issue cannot be linked to terrorism as we see it in Jordan.

[Tarabayh] Then, Jordan and Israel disagree on this issue?

[Al-Kabariti] Definitely, many states have different views on the terrorism issue. Every state and party may try to label the acts which it feels to be aimed against its interests as terrorism. However, absolutely, we in Jordan have a clear and known definition of terrorism. Terrorism is aimed against civilians and aims at nothing but violence for the sake of violence.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister, we will move to review some other hot Arab events, especially with regard to Algeria and the violence in which that Arab country is drowning. French President Francois Mitterrand recently proposed holding a conference on Algeria under the EU supervision. Do you believe that this French proposal goes in the right direction. How do you in Jordan believe Algeria can be freed from the current cycle of violence and civil war?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, we greatly regret what is going on in Algeria. We believe that what is going on there is an exhaustion of the resources of the brothers in Algeria. In the final analysis, it is an exhaustion of Arab resources in peripheral battles which will benefit nobody but those who do not wish our nation good, progress, and a better life. I had hoped the Arab League would have been able to find a specific mechanism to help establish a dialogue which would result in expanding political participation in Algeria. We in Jordan pride ourselves that the Jordanian democratic model is a model which can be emulated. However, definitely, we cannot impose our model on any party or any state. Yet, the issue in Algeria could spill over and threaten the lives of innocent people. I believe that the Arab states are required to intervene and resolve this situation within the Arab framework and within the Arab house.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister, it is known that Jordan has suffered from some acts of fundamentalist violence on its territory and against its institutions. Do you believe that the Kingdom has become completely immune to fundamentalist violence?

[Al-Kabariti] There is no fundamentalist violence in Jordan. We even do not agree with the definitions circulating in the region of the term fundamentalism. We believe that political differences should not be resolved militarily. I believe that political and democratic solutions are efficient solutions and can be promoted. I believe that the state of stability and security currently experienced by Jordan testifies to the possibility that democracy and broad participation of all political forces can offer a feasible solution to differences of views and variety of positions.

[Tarabayh] You are aware that border problems are rife between some Arab states. These problems are sometimes active, such as the Saudi-Yemeni dispute; and sometimes dormant for a while, such as the present conditions between Egypt and Sudan. My question is: Why aren't these problems solved among countries whose peoples are linked by family ties, nationalism, and religion, through dialogue and goodwill instead of the threats to use force and through actual force in some cases?

[Al-Kabariti] We ask the same question and are wondering how the Arab world accepts to allow its differences to remain intractable on the Arab level and why it is seeks international and foreign parties to solve their problem for them. We in fact follow with pain and concern all the events on the disputed border areas. Our stand is also clear. We emphasize the need to contain differences by exerting efforts among the brothers and solve problems among various countries through dialogue and peaceful means. We had hoped that a mechanism to solve disputes through the Arab League would be created to realize some progress and solve border problems.

During my visit to Egypt recently and during my meeting with the Arab League secretary General, I was able to convey this idea to the secretary general who emphasized that in the bylaws of the Arab Court of Justice which will be presented to the next Arab League session, there will be a mechanism to solve disputes. We hope that this will be the cherished mechanism and hope that the Arab brothers with differences will apply it in solving their problems, especially the border issues.

[Tarabayh] Do you not believe that it is time the clouds and differences among the Arab states are removed and

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the Arab reconciliation is effected? This reconciliation might pave the way for the long-awaited Arab summit.

[Al-Kabariti] I believe it is too early to discuss the issue of a summit. I do not believe that the climate is suitable for a comprehensive summit at this time. However, it is certainly the time to purify the atmosphere and effect an Arab reconciliation. As I always said, this requires shaking hands, then frank dialogue, and then a reconciliation. We have no objection to participating in any Arab effort to reach a mechanism to follow up the discussion in the hope that we would reach a formula on which all these sides could agree. Bahrain has made a proposal to which we responded with support. The proposal is to hold mini meetings, on the summit level or less, which will be expanded at a future stage. We support this proposal.

[Tarabayh] What is the status of relations between Jordan on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other?

[Al-Kabariti] Our relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are under discussion and they are receiving the intensive care of the Jordanian diplomacy. We took steps and made our positions clear. We hope that responses and stands from the other side will be forthcoming. For our part, we will not fail to contribute toward or work to improve, develop, and promote these relations. I believe that a chance exists now and that there are no justifications for the current chill in relations between us and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

[Tarabayh] In other words, there are contacts, preparations, or may be secret or behind the scene attempts to hold a Jordanian-Saudi summit shortly or in the intermediate future?

[Al-Kabariti] There are no secret contacts. Our contacts, meetings, and stands are in the open. Our moves toward Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates were done in the open and our statements on both sides reflect our real viewpoint and our genuine desire to improve these relations. As I said, we hope that there will be a breakthrough soon and we will continue to work toward this end.

[Tarabayh] Your Excellency, Jordan is the second Arab state after Egypt and the third Arab side after the PLO to sign a peace agreement with Israel. The other tracks, particularly the Syrian- Israeli track, are witnessing a complete deadlock. In your meeting with Israeli officials, have you noticed any Israeli readiness to remove obstacles that are still hindering the progress of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations and the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact I would like to emphasize Jordan's serious desire to contribute toward breaking the current deadlock on the negotiating tracks, particularly the Palestinian and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. In Jordan we are convinced that real peace must be comprehensive, balanced, and just. I believe that the details of what is going on on the Syrian and Lebanese track with the Israeli side is not within our knowledge. Therefore, I honestly cannot say if there are obstacles that Jordan could contribute toward removing.

[Tarabayh] Will you visit Beirut shortly? What is the level of the current relations between Jordan and Lebanon?

[Al-Kabariti] For me, Beirut and Lebanon are my second home. I always visit Beirut. I was there two weeks ago. I will visit Beirut whenever I have the opportunity to do so. Beirut is always in my heart.

[Tarabayh] An Arab-Israeli-U.S. economic conference was held in Taba for the first time. Jordan participated along with Egypt, the Palestinians, and Israel. It was attended by U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Do you not fear, Mr. Minister, that Israel, given its resources and U.S. support for it, will become the stronger side and the dominant power over the region's economy in an economic cooperation project for the Middle East?

[Al-Kabariti] There are two issues in the peace issue. There is the issue of political commitment and the social, or what is described as popular, commitment. The political commitment for us in Jordan has been accomplished by signing the peace agreement and by its passage through all constitutional stages. The popular and social commitment needs time to grow and develop. Certainly it will not assume its required momentum unless the Jordanian citizen feels the positive effects of peace on his economic and social standards. We believe that the responsibility for ensuring the durability and continuation of peace is an international one. Therefore, we supported the concept of the partnership for peace, which is a partnership with all the international community and certainly not only with Israel. We hope that this partnership will lead to improving the economic and social conditions in the region because this will ensure the continuation of peace. I do not believe that Jordan or any other Arab side intends to allow itself to enter the age of Israeli domination or the age of Israel's economic influence.

[Tarabayh] International resolutions demand Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Israel implemented this resolution on the Jordanian front. Syria demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and a commitment to international legitimacy. Thus, a chance will be available for signing a peace agreement. Do you support Syria's position on this issue?

[Al-Kabariti] We certainly support the Syrian position and stand by it to restore its rights and sovereignty on all of its territory as it stood on 4 June 1967. We believe that based on international legitimacy resolutions and Resolution 242, Jordan was able, through negotiations, to have a balanced agreement which in fact does not reflect the real balance of power, which did not work in Jordan's interest but in Israel's interest. Therefore, we consider the agreement that we have reached to be a great political achievement. We hope that the restored Jordanian rights and the way they were restored will be an example to be

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followed and that all the Arab sides will be able to realize the aims which we were able to realize; namely, restoring our full rights.

[Tarabayh] The EU troika foreign ministers are touring some Middle East areas. How do you evaluate the Jordanian-European relations in general and the Jordanian-French ties in particular.

[Al-Kabariti] Our ties with the Europeans are special and distinguished. We view France's current role as the president of the EU with esteem and respect. We believe that the European approach and desire to participate in the economic development of the Middle East region, particularly in Jordan, is a serious desire. We press their hands and hope that through the joint regional groups, in which Europe participates, we will be able to reach procedural mechanisms and bilateral agreements with the European side in order to realize the maximum degrees of cooperation and create more development projects in the region.

[Tarabayh] Do you have on your schedule a visit to Paris?

[Al-Kabariti] I contacted the French ambassador today and I believe that a visit to Europe, particularly France, is a must. We hope that France's preoccupation with the elections will not be a reason for preventing contacts in the coming stage.

[Tarabayh] At the end of this interview, would you like to say something to the listeners, both in Jordan and the Middle East?

[Al-Kabariti] I send my love and appreciation to all the listeners and I hope that the listeners will also participate in discussing all issues of interest to the region's countries and peoples in order to realize a comprehensive, balanced, and just peace.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister had you not been a minister, a diplomat, and a politician, what would you have liked to be?

[Al-Kabariti] A journalist. [laughter]

[Tarabayh] Thank You Mr. Minister.

Al-Kabariti Receives Iraqi Counterpart

JN0902172695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met at his office today with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. During the meeting, the conferees discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and issues related to the agenda of the upcoming session of the Arab League in Cairo.

Russia's Posuvalyuk Meets Prime Minister, Comments

JN0902152995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy. Present at the meeting was Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. They reviewed bilateral cooperation between Jordan and Russia, especially in the economic and trade fields.

The Russian official conveyed to the prime minister the Russian leadership's congratulations on the restoration of the occupied Jordanian territory in accordance with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. He also conveyed to his Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir the Russian prime minister's congratulations on the formation of the new Jordanian Government, wishing him and the government success in serving Jordan's issues.

He expressed Russia's support for the results of the recent Cairo four-way summit and the five-way trade ministers' meeting which was held in Taba yesterday.

In a press statement following the meeting, Posuvlayuk said that Russia, as a cosponsor of the peace process, is eager to continue its effective participation to advance the peace process. He said: Our meetings with the concerned parties in the region have enabled us to understand the nature of the problems and the solutions to the problems facing the peace process. He added: We discussed with Jordanian officials bilateral relations, especially in light of the progress witnessed by the trade and economic relations during the past two years. The Russian official said that he stressed to the Jordanian leadership that Russia will continue its efforts to convince all UN Security Council member states of the need for an appropriate response to Iraq's recent steps, particularly its compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions and recognition of the border with Kuwait.

On the Chechen problem, the Russian official said that all world states consider this problem a Russian domestic affair, and that there must be solutions in accordance with Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meets King Husayn

JN0902180995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister, at al-Nadwah Palace today. The Russian official is currently visiting Jordan as part of the continued coordination and consultation between the two countries on issues of common interest, primarily the peace process.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that Jordan will continue to support all efforts to promote and expand peace in the region. His majesty added that Jordan will contribute to any Arab, regional, or international meeting to enhance stability and promote development that achieves decent life and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

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Posuvalyuk conveyed to his majesty the greetings of President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian leadership, as well as their congratulations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces today from the last inch of the occupied Jordanian territories. Posuvalyuk stressed Russia's support for Jordan's positions and his majesty's sincere efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The audience was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Russian ambassador in Amman.

Senate President Confers With Acting PNC Speaker

JN0902173395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi received at his office today Acting Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Salim al-Za'nun today. Al-Za'nun was accompanied by the PNC director general.

Talks centered on various aspects of the brotherly relations between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority. They also stressed the importance of continued coordination and cooperation between the Jordanian Parliament and the PNC on bilateral, as well as Arab and international levels.

Poll: Majority Favor Palestinian Union

JN0802125695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Feb 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The majority of Jordanians favour some sort of unity between the Kingdom and Palestine in the event of the emergence of a Palestinian entity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, according to a public opinion poll released Tuesday [7 February].

The poll, conducted by the Strategic Studies Centre at the University of Jordan on three samples, said that 72.6 per cent of the population support a sort of unity between Jordan and a Palestinian entity, but the percentage varies sharply on the possible form of unity.

There were also differences in the amount of support among the three samples of the poll: the national sample, which covered 1,176 Jordanians over the age of 19 and was carried out between Aug. 30 and Sept. 6; the refugee camp sample, which surveyed 279 during the same period and the public opinion leaders sample, which covered 500 persons including former ministers, parliamentarians and heads of political parties and unions during the period between Oct. 19 and Nov. 22.

The poll found that 30.4 percent of Jordanians of East Bank origin in the national sample support merger with a Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza, compared with 37.8 per cent of Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

This form of unity receives less support among the public opinion leaders of both East Bank and Palestinian origin. It is favoured by 26.5 per cent of Jordanians of East Bank origin and 32.8 per cent of Jordanians of Palestinian origin. The support is highest in the refugee camp sample where it reaches 44.4 per cent.

Unity in the form of federation was favoured by 17 per cent of Jordanians of East Bank origin and 20.5 per cent of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the national sample, while it received the support of 15 per cent of East Bankers and 21.1 per cent of West Bankers in the opinion leaders sample.

Confederation is favoured by 18.4 per cent of East Bankers and 20.7 per cent of West Bankers in the national sample. Nineteen per cent of East Bankers and 21.1 per cent of West Bankers in the opinion leader sample, which was chosen randomly, support this form of unity.

In the case of the refugee camp sample, the support was 11.8 per cent and 15.4 per cent for confederation and federation respectively.

"The majority of opponents to unionist links (between the Kingdom and a Palestinian entity) were of East Bank origin," the poll concluded.

The poll revealed that the percentage of the people surveyed who said that there were obstacles to integration of Jordanians of Palestinian and East Bank origin ranged between 14.9 per cent and 34.4 per cent in the national sample, 18.2 per cent to 49 per cent in the opinion leader sample and 11.5 per cent to 38.4 per cent in the camp sample.

The belief in the existence of these obstacles was higher in the opinion leader sample and among Jordanians of East Bank origin.

For example, the poll found out that 39.1 per cent of East Bankers in the national sample believe that there were differences in the strength of nationalistic feeling among both sectors of society compared to 30 per cent of West Bankers who acknowledged such a difference.

The percentage of East Bankers who believe in the existence of this difference in the opinion leader sample is 61.3 per cent compared with 40.5 per cent among West Bankers; 41.1 per cent of East Bankers in the national sample said there was a difference in the degree of loyalty to the country between Jordanians of East Bank and West Bank origins, compared to 22.5 per cent among Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

The percentage rises in the sample of opinion leaders, reaching 59.3 per cent among East Bankers and 30 per cent among Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

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The percentage of people who believed in the existence of separating factors between East Bankers and West Bankers was lowest among refugee camp residents who appeared to report less differences between the two segments of society in almost all areas covered by the poll.

Mustafa Hamarinah, director of the Strategic Studies Centre, said the stronger belief among the public opinion leaders in the existence of obstacles to the integration of society could be attributed to either "a higher degree of awareness among them which leads to more critical positions or to their vested interest in maintaining their socio-economic and political status."

The poll said that 70.6 per cent of the national sample, 62.6 per cent of the opinion leaders sample and 74.2 per cent of the refugee camp sample believe that there are very limited obstacles that could prevent the integration of both segments of society.

It said that 68.7 per cent of the national sample, 56.4 per cent of the opinion leaders sample and 65.9 per cent of the camp sample believe that a "great degree of integration" has been reached in society.

The poll said that a study of the polarisation factors as far as East Bankers are concerned are:

- The concentration of private sector ownership in the hands of West Bankers;
- East Bankers' fears about the growing number of Jordanians of Palestinian origin;
- The dual loyalty of Jordanians of Palestinian origin (to Jordan and Palestine)
- And the lack of appreciation among Jordanians of Palestinian origins of the gains they made in the Kingdom.

As for polarisation factors for West Bankers, the poll listed the following:

- The concentration of public sector appointments in East Bankers;
- The disproportionate representation of West Bankers in government and Parliament;
- Keeping sensitive positions in the hands of East Bankers;
- And the government's favouritism of East Bankers in the various fields.

The poll, which was carried out by 60 students and analysed by a group of political scientists and sociologists and other professionals at the University of Jordan, noted that opinion leaders were more willing to acknowledge these polarisation factors; 43.6 per cent to 58.8 per cent of them recognised these factors compared to 29.9 per cent to 44.5 per cent in the national sample and 20.8 to 57.7 per cent in the camp sample.

For example, 66 per cent of East Bank opinion leaders said that an obstacle to national unity is the "dual loyalty among Jordanians of Palestinian origin," while 40.9 per cent of West Bankers agreed with them.

In the national sample, 35.4 per cent of Jordanins of East Bank origin acknowledged this factor compared to 24.7 per cent among West Bankers and 22.2 per cent among refugee camps residents.

"Concerning the West Bankers' belief that the concentration of sensitive government jobs among East Bankers is a polarisation factor, 74.1 per cent of West Bankers in the opinion leader sample agreed with this analysis compared to 43.9 per cent among East Bankers in the same sample; 33.3 per cent of East Bakers in the national sample consider this factor a polarisation one compared to 55.2 per cent among West Bankers. The percentage in the camp sample was 51.6 per cent.

More than one-fifth—22.6 per cent—of people surveyed in the national sample 74.4 per cent in the opinion leader sample and 20.1 per cent in the camp sample said the relationship between the Kingdom and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) was marked by lack of confidence and enmity.

Twenty-five per cent of East Bankers and 18 per cent of West bankers in the national sample said the relationship is marked by lack of confidence compared to 73 per cent of East Bankers 68 per cent of the West Bankers in the opinion leader sample. The camp sample was the least to agree on this conclusion with only 19.7 per cent reporting it.

The poll said that 61.3 per cent of the persons surveyed in the national sample, 84.2 per cent of those in the opinion leaders sample and 58.1 per cent of refugee camp residents demanded that Jordan and the PLO improve their relations.

These percentages break down into 56.3 per cent among East Bankers and 66.2 per cent among West Bankers in the national sample, 83 per cent among East Bankers and 85.4 per cent among West Bankers in the opinion leader sample.

The poll shows that the percentage of those who did not want improved ties was higher among East Bankers in both samples, though the percentage was low, reaching only 31.4 per cent in the national sample and 12.6 percent in the opinion leader sample.

Among West Bankers, 19.5 per cent in the national sample did not want improved relations nor did 8.9 per cent among opinion leaders.

The poll said that the majority of the people surveyed believe the PLO should "show good will, coordinate with the government and pursue unity" with Jordan in order to improve its ties with the Kingdom.

The majority of the people surveyed said the Kingdom should "show good will (towards the PLO), seek coordination with the PLO and support it" in order to have better PLO-Jordan ties.

The poll shows that the majority of the persons said that it is the PLO and not Jordan which should take those measures to improve the relations between the two sides.

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The poll said there is a dominant belief that the agreements the PLO has reached with Israel will have more positive than negative effects on Jordan. But it said the opinion leaders "were more convinced of the negative effects than those in the national sample."

The negative effect, said the poll, will be on the economic field and on Jordan's negotiating position with Israel, while the positive impact will be in enabling the Kingdom to proceed with these negotiations as a result of the environment "of security and stability which will prevail."

The poll reported limited optimism that the Palestinian-Israel talks will result in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

The per centage of those who believed the negotiations will lead to the creation of an independent state ranged between 16.1 per cent in the camp sample to 19 per cent in the national sample and 16.2 per cent in the opinion leader sample.

This view was expressed by 18.1 per cent of East Bankers and 20 per cent of West bankers in the national category, compared to 17 per cent among East Bankers and 15.4 per cent among West Bankers in the opinion leader sample.

Dr. Hamarinah said the poll provides a "wealth of information that could lay the ground for an objective and systematic analysis of the relations among East and West bankers in the Kingdom."

The purpose of the poll, said an introductory note to it, is to assess how East and West Bankers in Jordan see their relationship and to describe the "suspicions, fears and obstacles" that could prevent the integration of the two segments of society.

Informed sources said the centre, which is the first academic institution to study the political situation in the Kingdom and provide data on it, is planning to bring together a group of individuals "who have contributed to the debate about Jordanian- Palestinian relations" in an effort to further study the relations between East and West Bankers in the Kingdom.

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Pro-'Arafat Groups, Opponents Clash in Sidon Camp

NC1002064795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One hour of clashes occurred in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon last night between supporters of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and his opponents led by Munir al-Miqdah. According to our correspondent in the south, the combatants used B-7 rockets in the clashes. There are no reports on casualties.

Columnist Labels Cairo Talks 'Summit of Contempt' for Facts

NC1002102495 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 18

[Article by Rajih al-Khuri: "Summit of Forgery"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is the summit of contempt for the facts, not the summit for entrenching new peace alliances in the Middle East, as Shim'on Peres claims.

In practice, peace in the region does not need alliances that arouse feelings of fury and perhaps shame as much as it needs justice and parity so that the agreements with Israel will not acquire the meaning of complete surrender, as is happening now.

The "Arab mind" could have treated the Cairo summit as a sequel to the U.S.-Israeli effort to achieve Arab surrender and perpetuate the hegemony of the Israeli empire, but for the fact that the features of and roles in this summit acquired dimensions that were beyond the endurance of many people.

Despite everything, no one imagined that the Israeli foreign minister would be the architect of this summit and would stand up in Cairo to explain its aims and "benefits." No one thought the "settlement" agreements concluded so far would make the Arabs mere extras in the Israeli stage production of the Middle East.

Why should Shim'on Peres not proudly announce from Cairo that this summit would shape the "alliance of peace" and would redraw the political map of the Middle East, never mind that he forgot to explain that it would be drawn in Israeli colors?

Why should we be surprised by the mud that has risen over knees and reached faces and necks and perhaps minds, when the Israeli foreign minister himself has stood on the ruins of the "Alexandria summit" and the illusions it aroused, saying he does not want to exclude anyone from the Cairo summit, as if the Egyptian capital is a second Jerusalem and as if the leaders of this summit are the rabbis of the Jewish state in the Arab world?

It is the summit of forgery, not the summit of "peace alliances." The dilemma of peace is not in the hands of Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat. The crisis of peace lies in the Israeli concept of peace and in the expansionist and aggressive meanings of the solution. If the Cairo summit was held to discuss the crisis of peace with the Palestinians, it is the summit of folly, forgery, and disregard for facts. The crisis of the "Oslo accord" is due to three purely Israeli factors: Israel's nonrelease of Palestinian detainees, its insistence on nibbling on Palestinian land and building more settlements, and its nonwithdrawal from the Palestinian territory to pave the way for consolidating self-rule.

The real meanings of the Cairo summit are two:

1. The U.S. and Israeli attempts to abort the hopes the Alexandria summit has unleashed on the possible return of a minimum level of Arab solidarity in the face of the Israeli invasion of Arab capitals.

2. Yitzhaq Rabin's attempt to address an "electoral statement" to the Israeli public to improve his image at home and help him return to the slogan of "security and peace" on the basis of which he fought the last election. But facts have shown that what happened has no connection with security and peace.

The Egyptian meaning of the summit is apparently based on the logic that Egypt can have both summer and winter at the same time. We know not how Egypt can be the pivot of the call for steadfastness and restoring solidarity among the Arabs in Alexandria only to become in Cairo the pivot for strengthening the collapsing surrender agreements.

The "Palestinian-'Arafatist" meaning of the summit is that it is an attempt to grab any lifebelt amid the waves of turbulence in the autonomous areas, which the Israeli blockade has made more rebellious against the settlement. If Rabin is imitating the Nazis and sending dogs to surround Palestinian areas, he has nothing to throw to rescue 'Arafat.

Regardless of its results, the best description of the summit is summed up in what Knesset member Binyamin Begin said, namely, that "it is an attempt to treat a plague with aspirin." As for Peres, whose arrogance has prompted him to address Syria with talk of the divorce of war, the marriage of peace, and bachelorhood, he should search in the settlement contracts for certificates of illegal marriage, certificates of death, and records of plague cases treated with aspirin!

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AL-BA'TH Urges Palestinian Negotiators To Admit Failure

JN1002081095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today the newspaper AL-BA'TH highlights Israeli deception, saying Rabin holds in contempt the slightest implications of true peace. He wants only to turn Gaza and Jericho into mass concentration camps holding all the stone-throwers opposed to occupation.

The paper adds: All Palestinians inside and outside the occupied homeland have realized that Israel respects no agreements. This reminds them of its noncompliance with the relevant international resolutions. The Palestinian negotiators who met with their Israeli counterparts at the Erez crossing and in Cairo have acknowledged that the peace process has begun to collapse. Hence, they should admit that they have been deceived or that they were hasty.

Concluding its commentary, the paper wonders: Have the sinners realized that their sins are on the increase?

Press Views Erez Talks, Peres' Washington Statements

JN1002101495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—AL-BA'TH said today that the Palestinian Arab people [words indistinct] occupied Palestine are convinced that it is worthless to negotiate with the Israelis, who do not respect a pledge or agreement, and who—throughout history—have been used to stabbing in the back and deceiving those who trust them.

In its editorial, the newspaper said Rabin's refusal of 'Arafat's demand at the Erez crossing or in Cairo is normal, because the Oslo agreement gave Israel everything, while taking everything from the Palestinian people.

The newspaper added: When the negotiators in Erez or Cairo admit that the Palestinian-Israeli peace process began to collapse, they should first have admitted that they had been deceived or that they sought (?a hasty peace).

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper said: It is not the Erez meeting that failed, but it is Rabin, who deals with his Nobel Peace Prize partners in the way the Israelis do in general. It asks: Have the mistaken ones become aware that their mistakes are increasing and that the results are grave for those who ignore the blood of martyrs and martyrdom-seekers?

For its part, AL-THAWRAH described Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements in Washington—in which he asked U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to resume his shuttle diplomacy in the region to advance the faltering peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks—as political oneupmanship, bubbles in the air, and an attempt to make fun of others.

It said: Such propaganda and talk, which are void of any content, do not deceive anyone, and lack credibility and good intentions toward peace and toward commitment to its terms of reference.

The newspaper said: Peres, Rabin, and other politicians and generals are mistaken if they think that sweet talk can provide a cover for an exposed policy or that this talk can be in harmony with conflicting statements and affirmations by the same persons—statements that are full or arrogance and rejection of full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

Concluding its article, the newspaper said: As leader al-Asad has emphasized on every occasion and during his meeting with the European troika delegation last Wednesday, Syria seeks peace and adheres to it, and Syria will never abandon the objective of peace. Any peace that keeps one centimeter of land under occupation is a capitulation that Syria rejects and that Israel will never realize regardless of the passage of time.

Jordanian 'Opposition' Statement on Cairo Summit Reported

JN0902180395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today by the 11 Jordanian opposition parties says the four-way meeting which was held recently in Cairo aimed at rescuing the Oslo Agreement from collapse, especially after the martyrdom-seeking operations that were carried out by the Palestinian fighters.

The statement says: The impotence of the Israeli Government and the limited self-rule authority was the reason for holding this meeting. The statements issued after the meeting confirm the continuity of Israeli hegemony since that statement did not touch on settlement activities, the suffering of thousands of prisoners and detainees, or the Jerusalem issue. The outcome of the meeting benefited Israel, as was stated by Israeli foreign minister Shim'on Peres.

The parties say in their statement that the Cairo meeting came to support the Rabin Government by denouncing the martyrdom-seeking operations, putting an end to such operations, pursuing the Palestinian strugglers inside and outside, and rescuing the self- rule authority from its isolation after the Palestinian people discovered the extent of the tragedy resulting from the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

The statement adds: While denouncing that meeting, the opposition parties stress the Palestinian people's right to resist occupation through all legitimate means until they

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liberate their land and regain their rights. The parties believe that any attempt to lay obstacles in the face of Palestinian militants will only benefit the Zionist entity, entrench its occupation, and infringe on the sanctity of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian cause.

The statement says: The Jordanian national opposition parties are very pained when they see a summit being convened with the Zionist entity at a time when efforts failed to hold an Arab summit to stop Zionist settlement activities and put an end to the attempts to Judaize Jerusalem. The 11 parties urge the various nationalistic parties all over the Arab world, the popular organizations, and all honorable people to shoulder their responsibility to stop meetings with the entity that is based on injustice and aggression.

Radio Views Ministers' Support for 'Legitimate Demands'

JN0702161195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states who met in Cairo yesterday expressed full support for Syria's legitimate demands. They also voiced great appreciation for Syria's honorable pan-Arab position. They further demanded Israel withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and all the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. They also stressed that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions that govern the peace process; namely, Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. The Arab ministers also praised Syria's efforts to ensure the success of the peace process. They commended the Alexandria summit, which paved the way for reviving Arab solidarity and unifying ranks. That summit—which brought together President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak, and King Fahd—also voiced support for Syria and its legitimate demands and honorable stands, held Israel responsible for obstructing the peace process, and called for adjusting the Arab environment and unifying Arab ranks.

The message we can deduce from the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states and the Alexandria three-way summit is a clear call to rally behind Syria's position and not allow Israel to continue with its scheme to undermine Arab ranks and annul the Arab's national principles in a bid to annul the UN Security Council resolutions and alienate the foundations of the Madrid Conference and the land-for-peace formula.

The Israeli officials thought that, through false peace claims and suspect, partial deals, they could deceive world public opinion, penetrate the unity of Arab ranks, and isolate Syria, since it has refused and continues to refuse to be pushed into abandoning rights and territory and sticks to the substance of the UN resolutions and the goal of the just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and what it requires in terms of Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination.

If the entire world has discovered through the daily events on the ground the invalidity of the Oslo Agreement, the falsity of the Israeli peace claims, and Israel's evasion of the requirements of the just and comprehensive peace in the region, then it is natural for the Arabs to discover the same thing. It is also natural for them to reach the conclusion that Israel has not changed its policy or amended its strategy, which aims to absorb and Judaize the land. They must also have discovered that the attempts to extort Syria and threaten it with war, in the end, have failed, along with the extortion of all Arabs and threats against their security and stability, and that the time has come to face the Israeli intransigence and evasion with an unambiguous, clear-cut position.

The world, and the Arabs, have seen with their own eyes Israel's bulldozers destroying Palestinian villages and towns and uprooting the Arab citizens from their land before it is annexed to the settlements. No sooner had the recent Israeli rulers' claims on peace been aired, than the occupation authorities started to seal off Jericho, extend the siege imposed on Gaza and the West Bank, and announce the building of thousands of new housing units in the occupied territories.

The Israeli rulers are quite mistaken if they think they can undermine the chances for Arab solidarity, spread the seeds of conflict among Arab states, cheat this or that party, and deceive world public opinion with false peace claims. Peace requires deeds, particularly complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and ending the control imposed on the Palestinian people and their occupied territory.

Syria is in the consciousness of the Arab people in all of their countries. It is also the title for their pride, honor, and dignity. Solidarity with Syria means solidarity with one's self. Helping Syria means a support for the pan-Arab future. No honorable Arab citizen would agree to relinquish his dignity, and regardless of how hard the Israelis try to maneuver, the facts are now clear to the world. Israel is the party that challenges the international law and the world's unanimous desire to establish a genuine peace based on justice, comprehensiveness, and respect for the rights of all. Only peace can guarantee security and stability. Peace does not mean keeping the land, expanding the areas of settlement activities, and the use of the state terror in all forms. Such a peace will lead to expanding the circle of tension and explosion. There can be no peace with occupation and there can be no peace without guaranteeing everybody's dignity and rights.

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Paper Views Syrian-Kuwaiti Cooperation

JN0902091395 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by Yusra al-Masri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Ministerial Commitee has held its third session in Damascus. The Syrian side was led by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs. The Kuwaiti side was led by Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister for financial affairs. Talks resulted in several agreements and projects that were on the committee's agenda.

The following are the results of these meetings, which continued for three days:

The Syrian and Kuwaiti sides discussed several economic and trade topics concerning both fraternal countries, in keeping with decisions at the joint committee's second session in Kuwait during the period 25-27 July 1994. The two sides noted with satisfaction the steps taken on economic and trade relations between them and expressed their common desire to increase this cooperation. They agreed to expand trade exchanges and to increase the volume of trade between the two countries, according to the provisions of the Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement of 1991. Both sides agreed to call upon their economic firms to secure their needs from the products produced by either country and to offer every possible facility for that.

In view of the important role of specifications and measurements in facilitating the increase of trade between the two fraternal countries, and since an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of specifications, measurements, quality control, and compatibility was signed between the two countries in 1994, the two sides urged the authorities concerned in both countries to expedite preparation of the implementation work programs for the above agreement by holding meetings of competent officials in both countries. The two sides emphasized the importance of holding exhibitions and fairs for their national products, participating in international fairs in both countries, and granting the necessary facilities for that on a mutual basis.

The Syrian side familiarized itself with the steps being taken to open a permanent Syrian Trade Center in Kuwait early in 1995. The two sides hope this center plays a role in publicizing and marketing Syrian products in the State of Kuwait and increasing trade between them.

The Kuwaiti side explained that the Kuwaiti Fund had completed all arrangements to open a current bank account of $50 million for the purpose of financing Syrian imports under the agreement signed between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kuwaiti Fund on 24 May 1993. This account is now ready for use.

For its part, the Syrian side expressed its appreciation of this measure and said it will begin to use this account within one month, after making the necessary banking arrangements with the competent economic establishments that will use it for certain purposes.

Cooperation in the investment field included discussion of the subject of establishing a holding company. The Syrian side reviewed the stages which have been covered on the subject of the United Kuwaiti Company for Investment, such as the issuance of Legislative Decree No. 15 dated 4 August 1994 ratifying the agreement establishing this company as a limited shareholding company in Syria, the issuance of the Syrian prime minister's Decision No. 6565 dated 29 December 1994 approving the company's by-laws, and the opening of two accounts in foreign and local currencies at the Syrian Commercial Bank in the company's name.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with these advanced steps in establishing the company and instructed that the necessary implementation measures be taken so an announcement can be made as stipulated in the contract of association and the by-laws. The two sides wished the company success in achieving its objectives for the common benefit of both fraternal countries.

Regarding the establishment of a five-star tourist hotel in Damascus, the Syrian side presented all the new data on the project, including shares in the capital and the area assigned for the project. The Kuwaiti side promised to study this data in light of the feasibility studies prior to making the appropriate decision and informing the Syrian side about what has taken place in this regard as soon as possible so the project will find its way to implementation and serve as a practical embodiment of fraternal Syrian-Kuwaiti relations.

The two sides reviewed development cooperation between them in the operation of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and loan agreements on Syrian projects. They also reviewed certain technical and procedural matters that will help implement these projects on time.

Regarding the Hamah cement project, the Kuwaiti side explained that the Kuwaiti Fund has already assessed the project and prepared the loan agreement, which will be submitted to its board of directors during its meeting this month.

Regarding the power transformer stations, the Syrian side submitted an official request to the Kuwaiti Fund backed by a justifying technical and economic study to finance the al-Zahirah al-Mazra'ah 230/66-kilovolt power transformer stations. The fund will study the request and define its position during the month of February 1995. The two sides also discussed the al-Khabur Dam and irrigation projects, the grain silos and mills projects, the Ariha- Latakia Highway, and the completion of the al-Nasiriyah power station.

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Under the agenda item of the establishment of the Ugarit Airline Company, the two sides reviewed existing cooperation between them in the field of air transport and expressed their satisfaction with the progress in the talks concerning the project to establish a Syrian- Kuwaiti airline company, "Ugarit." They expressed the hope that the company will be announced in 1995 in order to strengthen existing relations between the Syrian Arab Airlines and Kuwaiti Airways.

During these meetings, the two sides signed an agreement regulating land transportation of goods between the two states and also goods transiting their territories and the protocol concerning this trade.

The Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Ministerial Committee's agenda included several cooperation agreements in the cultural, tourist, information, health, financial, customs, and employment fields and cooperation between businessmen in both countries. The two sides expressed their appreciation of the results reached by Kuwaiti and Syrian businessmen after their first meeting in Kuwait late 1994, especially the signing of the protocol on the establishment of the Council of Kuwaiti and Syrian Businessmen and the appointment of its members, as well as joint efforts to develop and increase trade between the two countries and encourage Kuwaiti investment in Syria through the establishment of economic projects and companies in all fields.

Concluding their meetings, the Syrian and Kuwaiti sides emphasized the importance of continuous meetings and contacts between the competent authorities in Syria and Kuwait in order to implement and follow up on the decisions of the Joint Ministerial Committee in accordance with the timetable set for each of them.

It was decided to hold the fourth session of the Joint Syrian- Kuwaiti Ministerial Committee in Kuwait in November 1995.

Paper Reports on Public Sector Exports

JN0902164795 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Awad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Are we satisfied with the volume of our exports? Judging by the percentage execution of 97 percent, we can say that they are a great fulfillment. But these figures are still below our ambitions for most exports. So, let us read on.

The commodity export target for public sector organizations through the third quarter of 1994 was $802 million. They made $780 million; a percentage execution of 96.98 percent. It is a very good percentage which means that the organizations had drawn up realistic plans. Still, this does not stop us from talking about the modest execution percentages of certain ministries.

Supply Ministry exports were $43.9 million against an export target of $131 million, thus recording a percentage execution of not more than 33.5 percent.

Industry Ministry exports were $20.9 million against an export target of $63 million, thus recording a percentage execution of 33 percent.

Agriculture Ministry exports were $1.2 million against an export target of $2.2 million. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor preferred not to export, although it set a target of $813,000.

As for the Economy Ministry's percentage execution, it reached 128 percent, since it exported for $207 million against an export target of $161 million.

Some public sector organizations carried out internal sales in foreign currencies. But such sales are not considered exports. Therefore, the sum of $21.5 million from internal sales by the Ministry of Industry was deducted from the export figures. Meanwhile, all organizations have been notified to exclude their internal sales when submitting their quarterly export reports, since, as we said, internal sales in foreign currencies are not considered exports in economics.

Some organizations managed to exceed their target figures such as the State Organization for Sugar and the State Organization for Cotton. The percentage execution of cotton exports reached 131 percent, since the organization exported for $203 million against an export target of $154 million. The percentage execution of sugar exports reached 124 percent, since the organization exported for $1.056 million against an export target of $849,000. The percentage execution of poultry exports was 94 percent, since the organization exported for $909,000 against a target of $967,000.

There is a suggestion to commend these organizations and to reward exporters who exceed their targets by eight percent.

In some commodities the percentage execution dropped to less than 50 percent, as in the case of the following: Asphalt 50 percent, cement 11 percent, chemicals 8 percent, food industries 38 percent, textiles 23 percent, and grain 46 percent, since the Grain Organization exported for $43 million against a target of $93 million.

What is embarrassing is that some organizations did not implement their plans at all and completely failed in the export process. These are the organizations dealing in livestock, fodder, meat, and shoes as well as state farms and the Rural Development Organization.

Cotton is considered one of Syria's main commodity exports. Cotton exports through the third quarter of 1994 reached $197 million and cotton seeds $7.6 million. Chick peas exports reached $15 million, barley $19 million, and lentils $7.3 million.

Generally, our exports have increased by 11 percent compared to the same period in 1993. They reached $780 million in 1994 compared to $684 million in 1993.

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Industry Ministry exports increased by 23 percent, since they reached $20.9 million through the third quarter of 1994, compared to $16.9 million for the same period in 1993. Agriculture Ministry exports dropped by 15 percent, since they reached $1.2 million in 1994 compared to $1.4 million for the same period in 1993.

The most obvious increase was recorded by the Ministry of Supply, which achieved an increase of 216 percent, since it exported for $44 million in 1994 compared to $13 million for the same period in 1993.

The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade also achieved an increase of 57 percent over its exports for the same period in 1993, since its commodity exports reached $207 million through the third quarter of 1994 compared to $132 million for the same period in 1993.

A quick reading of our export figures makes us feel that we are still stumbling in the export process despite the high and satisfactory percentages we have achieved. All we have to do is appraise what we have accomplished and try to overcome the difficulties facing exportation, which is not impossible. We will speak about these difficulties in a future article.

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Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Says 'European Country' Supporting Taleban

LD0902163195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with BBC Radio, Hekmatyar, the leader of the country's Islamic revolution has regarded the militia group called Taleban as alien agents and the enemies of the jihad and mojahedin.

Brother Hekmatyar said: [Announcer-read] This is not the movement of Taleban but a number of servant militiamen who are being hired by the alien and employed by the enemies of the jihad. Genuine Taleban are either studying in religious schools or belong to the jihadi formations.

In reply to another question, Brother Hekmatyar said: This is not a local movement or a self-propelled movement. The movement was launched by a European country and controlled by a former British ambassador in Islamabad. Furthermore, this mercenary group is being financed by a so-called Islamic country.

In his interview Brother Hekmatyar said: Taleban are committed to jihad and are good people but the mercenary group (?calling themselves) Taleban are enemies of the jihad and the jihadi formations, and their true features are being fully exposed.

Brother Hekmatyar added: After these mercenary groups had disrupted the calm situation in Vardak they were being met with firm resistance by the Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin and they have received heavy losses.

Brother Hekmatyar added: The people of Vardak and Maydan are standing up against this mercenary group, and I hope, God willing, a good lesson will soon be given to them.

Hekmatyar Forces Claim Offensive 'Repulsed'

LD0902205695 Tehran IRNA in English 2034 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Feb. 9, IRNA—A radio belonging to Hezb-i-Islami of Golboddin Hekmatyar said Tuesday [7 February] night that the offensive of Talebans upon Vardak Province was repulsed.

The radio quoted a general commander of Hezb-i-Islami as saying that the Hezb forces have begun mopping up operations in Vardak Province, however, it did not mention the situation in the capital of the province, Maidanshahr.

Vardak Province is located in west of Kabul and the capital city, Maidanshahr is 20 kms western Kabul [sentence as received].

Meanwhile Kabul Radio belonging to Borhanoddin Rabbani said at Tuesday night that fighting was continuing in Maidanshahr.

Kabul radio quoted BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY as saying that heavy clashes are underway in the capital city of Maidanshahr for consecutive days and there was no news on success of the warring parties.

Kabul Radio did not mention the name of the group involved in war with Hekmatyar forces and said that Hekmatyar forces laid siege to Khairabad Governorate and have made some gains.

India

Army To Reduce Troops Along Chinese Border

BK0902133095 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Guwahati, Feb 8 (UNI)—The Indian Army is reducing troops along the Indo-China international border in the eastern sector, Chief of Army Staff General Shankar Roy Choudhury said today.

Addressing a Press conference here, he said the Army was trying to pull back the troops to the Brahmaputra valley. "We will know how the troops were deployed under trying conditions. We are in constant search to remove them to better accommodation".

Terming the Indo-China border as quiet, the Army Chief said, the troop reducing would not lead to any threat to India because of the recent peace treaty signed between the two countries.

General Roy Choudhury added that India's international boundaries were secure and even in the western front along with Pakistan was well protected.

"I do not foresee another conventional war with Pakistan in the near future. But the proxy war will continue to be intensified," he remarked.

The General admitted that Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) had a role in the insurgency of the North-East but ruled out the possibility of any country being directly involved in the arms supply.

"Lot of monies are collected through extortion, bank robberies and drug business which are then pumped into the open arms market to procure arms. But it is true that passage of these arms consignment are through some specifics country," be said.

He, however, admitted that sheer force could not solve insurgency and for that a process of positive dialogue had to be initiated. "The force can only reduce the level of insurgency but it cannot certainly stamp it out".

About alleged human rights violations in the North-East by the forces, the Army Chief admitted some cases of violations but added that the judicial system of the Army to punish the culprits was quicker and harsher than the normal judiciary system of the country. "The violations

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against women are dealt with and treated far more effectively than in the normal course", he added.

The Army Chief, however, refused to be drawn into the controversy of the alleged nexus of Manipur politicians with the insurgents but added that the morale of the troops was high and much depended on the field leaderships of the commanders.

Two 'Militants' Killed; Bombs Found in Kashmir

BK0902143295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces shot dead two militants and arrested 11 others in Kashmir valley since last evening. Official sources said today that 11 militants were apprehended from Pulwama, Kupwara, and Anantnag during house-to-house search and raids on militant hideouts. In Jammu city, four bombs planted under a culvert in the Sainik Colony were spotted by the residents and later recovered by the police.

New Ministers Inducted; Rao Says More 'Soon'

BK0902131095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Union Council of Ministers has been expanded. At a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning [as heard], six new ministers were inducted and two elevated. Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. Buta Singh, and Mr. Madhavrao Scindia are the new cabinet ministers. Mr. G. Venkat Swamy and Mr. P.A. Sangma have been elevated to cabinet rank. Mr. P. Chidambaram has been sworn in as a minister of state with independent charge. Mr. Matang Singh and Mrs. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel have taken oath as ministers of state. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. The prime minister and several of his cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion. With this, the strength of the Union Council of Ministers has gone up to 57.

Later, in an informal chat with newsmen, the prime minister said there will be another expansion soon. This is to give adequate representation to Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, and Orissa. Replying to a query, he said the expansion of the Union Council of Ministers will strengthen the functioning of his government.

First Phase of Maharashtra State Election Peaceful

BK0902162095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Heavy turnout of voters was reported in the first phase of assembly elections in Maharashtra today. About 62 percent of the electorate in 147 constituencies exercised their franchise. The polling passed off peacefully. The second phase of polling will be held on Sunday [12 February] in 139 of the remaining 141 constituencies. Polling in Vasai constituency has been postponed to the 18th of this month following complaints of intimidation. Election in Parel constituency will be held after the high court gives its order on a pending case.

Editorial Says Economic Reforms Neglect 'Common Man'

BK1002050795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 6 Feb 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Economic Reforms: How Much and in What Form?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the usurious money-lender, always exploiting your helplessness to the hilt, starts worrying for you, what would be your reaction? That it is a very serious matter and might cause your doom? Isn't it a very serious matter and may cause your doom? Isn't it? The situation is very similar. For the chairman of the International Monetary Fund, his very image in developing countries is nothing short of a cruel villain. Michel Camdessus has now been constrained to utter that the new global economy could adversely affect developing countries. Nobody would have imagined that the ambitious game started with the instigation of large international organizations like the IMF, or that the World Bank would end up in the unprecedented plight of the Mexican economy. Camdessus' statement with regard to the Mexican crisis is especially significant in the Indian context. Indian economic reform is passing through its most exuberant phase, in which not only the gates of our market have been opened wide for foreign investors and the multinationals, but all of their conditions are being met quite enthusiastically. After years of these reforms, one question is natural. What benefit has the common man received from these reforms? Those who have even a smattering of economics know that it takes time to make the effect of economic changes percolate down to the common man. But how much? Our three and one-half years of experience tells us that let alone the common man, even the middle class, which participates actively in our economy, has also not received any apparent benefit so far. It is even difficult to assess how much benefit would be received and in what form. Obviously, no solid assessment has been done in the matter.

On the other hand, the adverse effects of the economic reforms have begun to surface. The rich have become richer and the chasm between rich and poor is growing. Fast mechanization and other related factors have resulted in aggravating unemployment. Though more options have been made available for consumers, their number is very small. After this, what does the emphasis on the foreign investors and enforcement of the "exit policy" indicate? In a country like India where the number of unemployed runs into crores [tens of millions], such measures would prove to be a deadly curse. These foreign businessmen, now looking greedily toward India and out to make huge instant profits, can present

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any such extortionist demands, but it does not mean that we may bid adieu to our economic reforms. What is needed is meaningful debate, to decide the right course of action which might have some benefit for everyone. Reforms whose benefits reach only a very few are meaningless for the common man.

Commentary Notes 8% Growth in Industry

BK1002003495 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Commentary by G. Srinivasan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country's industrial production during the first seven months of 1994-95, April-October, registered a handsome growth of 8 percent as compared to the low 3.8 percent registered during the corresponding period of the previous year. As the economy is in the midpoint of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the performance of industry during the first seven months of the current fiscal year is also a positive pointer that the overall output in the mining and manufacturing sectors during the plan period would grow at an average rate of 8 percent as set out in the plan document. Though in the first two years of the eighth plan industry did not grow at the desired level, the lag is likely to be made good in the remaining two years of the current plan as the policies and incentives provided to Indian industry would start yielding results. This is also borne out by the fact that the latest round of business expectations survey made by the premier research body, the National Council of Applied Economic Research—NCAER, revealed that the buoyancy in the economy seems to be translating into larger investments in key areas. The survey also disclosed that while import content of new investments is likely to be sizable for a section of the responding firms; for above 40 percent, it is negligible. This means any fear about drop in foreign exchange reserves because of high import intensity of Indian industry is unfounded. The survey also pointed out that as against the previous rounds of operation, more firms now expect an improvement in the volume of sales, ex-factory prices, profit margins, and installed capacity. This is a welcome development as it demonstrates in no unmistakable terms that the Indian industry is sanguine about performing well against competition and in the liberalized milieu that the new industrial policy unveiled in mid-1991. The particularly noteworthy feature is that by the end of 1995, about 87 percent of the survey respondents hoped to obtain International Organization for Standardization—ISO—standard production facility reflecting the genuine keenness of Indian industry to upgrade quality, so as to compete internationally.

An analysis of performance shows that aided by the impressive output growth of 10.3 percent in the month of October 1994 alone, the general index during the first seven months of 1994-95 reached 232.8 points as compared to 215.6 in the corresponding period of 1993-94. The contrasting development in the industrial scenario is that the capital goods sector recovered during the period under review by growing at a hefty 21.7 percent while the basic goods sector fell to 4.3 percent growth as against 7.2 percent during the previous comparable period. Although the developments in the country's industrial domain are quite encouraging, the fact cannot be glossed over that it is the government's policy to deregulate and unshackle the Indian industry which has enabled it to take its decision on its own, so as to emerge competitive both in terms of price and quality; but cost competitiveness is an area where not much has been done by both the government and the industry, as the high cost of production is hindering the industry to put in its best.

However, there are some attempts to make the industry viable from international perspective. First, in the past there has been considerable stress on import substitution at any cost. With considerable buildup of precious foreign exchange reserves and the emphasis being laid on competitiveness, future growth would be more in those sectors where the country has comparative advantage, especially in software and consultancy exports. Second, the Indian industry is likely to grow through expansion, amalgamation and mergers, and finally there would be greater integration of indigenous production with outside. Thus, those components and subassemblies whose production is uneconomic would be imported and some other components, subassemblies, and finished products would increasingly be exported. Eventually, there would be joint ventures abroad to exploit the compelementarity of resource endowments in this country and the concerned foreign country, as it happened in textiles.

In sum, the Indian industry is virtually on a threshold of an era of expansive growth aided by the government policies in recent months, which provided the freedom and flexibility to industry to enhance its capabilities in a bid to optimize its operations and improve its competitiveness in terms of cost, price, and quality.

Italian President Arrives for Official Visit

BK1002004195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy arrived in New Delhi today on a four-day official visit to India. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation and top businessmen. President Scalfaro will be given a ceremonial welcome tomorrow at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He will have talks with the president, the prime minister, and other leaders. President Scalfaro and President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma will be inaugurating the 11th Indian Engineering Trade Fair in New Delhi on Saturday [11 February]. Italy is participating in the fair for the second time in a decade.

Iran

Radio Reports Gingrich 'Overthrow' Statement

LD1002115795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and leader of the Republican Party

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called for the replacement of Iran's Islamic system. Newt Gingrich, who was speaking at a gathering of U.S. military and intelligence officers, announced openly that finding a way to replace the Islamic government of Iran must be one of the United States' long-term strategic policies.

The WASHINGTON POST yesterday cited Tony Blankley, Gingrich's press secretary, as saying: Gingrich called for any measure, including economic, diplomatic, cultural, and other measures—except military action—to overthrow the Iranian government.

American radio [Voice of America], too, in its morning newscast announced: The U.S. State Department has rejected the proposal of the Speaker of the House of Representatives calling for the violent overthrow of the Islamic system of Iran and went on to accuse Iran of trying to gain access to weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism.

Moreover, an AFP report citing a U.S. Government official, who wished to remain anonymous, indicates that U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized during his talks last night with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Washington the need to exert economic pressure on Iran because of Tehran's opposition to the Middle East [peace] talks.

According to this report, in these talks Helmut Kohl described Islamic fundamentalism as the biggest danger facing the West and warned that it is spreading to other parts of the Middle East.

U.S. 'Antagonism' to Islamic Revolution Examined

NC1002121195 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Feb 95 p 20

[Political commentary: "Once Again the Litany of Human Rights Against Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Human rights, terrorism, weaponry, nuclear capability, etc... these are the main terms used by the formulators of the White House blacklist in this unequal game in international relations. Countries that do not accept the political and security arrangements made by the founders of the new world order (!) will be condemned with either one or all the above accusations. This ill-omened game is played by the arrogant powers with words and unfortunately most of the international political circles merely bow their heads in acquiescence without comparing such claims to reality. This is the greatest error that has let these wordsmiths in Washington flourish.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the few countries which, since its inception, has been the target of a series of monotonous attacks with the aforementioned ill-omened terms. This is largely rooted in Iran's antagonism toward the powers of world arrogance and those opposed to the revolution and revolutionaries; and this still poses one of the greatest headaches for the West in the region.

We are now on the threshold of the 17th anniversary of the magnificent Islamic revolution of Iran and once again the White House has embarked on its rumormongering. Once again it is reporting violations of human rights in Iran! This is repetitive propaganda and as usual we should view the expediencies that require these labels to be used:

1. Today, in the auspicious Ten Days of Dawn, the Muslim Iranian people and the Muslims who are proponents of the Islamic revolution all over the world re-live their reminiscences of the revolution which is their sweetest memory while for the inmates of the White House, it is the most bitter recollection.

Clinton's party associates who in 1970 described the shah's regime as "an island of stability" were forced to acknowledge defeat with the victory of the Islamic revolution which shattered all their balance. This defeat kept the Democrats away from the pinnacle of power of their Republican rivals for 12 years.

Now Clinton and the Democrats in the United States of the nineties are on their way out after only two years have elapsed since they assumed power. They believe the real reason for their failure—which is relatively greater than their past failures—lies in their foreign policy. One of the reasons for their defeat is the unsuccessful political and security policies of the White House in the Middle East and most of the political circles consider the Islamic Republic of Iran the main impediment in this path.

There is no doubt that Washington's policy to overshadow the celebrations of the 17th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran will have the reverse effect and the people of the world will observe the grandeur and essence of this revolution.

2. Yesterday and today, the finance ministers and heads of central banks of the G-7 countries held meetings in Toronto, Canada in order to discuss various problems such as aid to the bankrupt economies of Mexico and Russia (in view of the Chechen issue) and are involved in discussing the International Monetary Fund and is structure and so on.

Iran has not been mentioned on the agenda of this session but as usual the White House representative will concentrate his greater efforts to lobbying in the corridors for a ban on continuing economic relations between the countries of his six counterparts and Iran, as was the case at the sessions in Tokyo and all other previous G-7 sessions. However, the U.S. side never achieved any measure of success.

It is usual practice by the White House that during such sessions, it makes Iran the target of terms such as terrorism, and human rights. As we see, the White House is currently using the ploy of human rights.

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Earlier, in his address at Harvard University on 20 January, Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, propounded the issue of a nuclear danger from Iran and warned some world powers, including Japan, against giving loans to Iran. A similar demand is expected to be made at the Toronto session.

However, there is evidence that indicates that the main trading partners of Iran have recognized the roots of Washington's hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran and will continue their relations with Tehran on the basis of facts and not unfounded claims which are made for purposes of reaping political capital. This is the policy that has been pursued so far and will hopefully continue in the future as well.

President Denies Attempts To Access Nuclear Weapons

LD0902203595 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1915 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the threshold of the anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with foreign ambassadors and delegates to Tehran on Thursday [9 February] evening.

Referring to the major achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran despite conspiracies hatched against it, including an eight-year-long imposed war, and subversive propaganda, Mr. Rafsanjani declared: Iran has now proven its political, economic, and cultural strength to the world.

The president then pointed to U.S. claims over Iran's attempts to gain access to nuclear weapons, and said: The Islamic attitude is against the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, and Iran as a Muslim country has always abode [as heard] by Islamic laws.

Iran's president also condemned the U.S. support for the usurper Zionist regime, calling it a policy in support of terrorism.

Mr. Rafsanjani then addressed the attending ambassadors as [word indistinct] witnesses of the healthy atmosphere in Iran and conveyed to them Iran's message of friendship.

Rafsanjani on Nuclear Weapons, Other Issues

LD0902223595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi Rafsanjani has told foreign ambassadors to Tehran that the sacred order of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to be attached to its principled goals and revolutionary ideals. He has said that many problems and difficulties were created to prevent the influence of the Islamic revolution, but the just movement and the free thought of the revolution has found and stabilized its position and audience in the world. You can hear a report on the president's remarks from our correspondent Rouhani-Nezhad:

[Rouhani-Nezhad] The president met foreign ambassadors and political representatives of the countries of the world on the eve of the anniversary of the revolution's victory in Tehran on Thursday [9 February] evening.

Regarding the great and unimaginable progress of the order of the Islamic Republic and the realization of its lofty goals and ideal, the president said that despite the hopes and expectations of the enemies of the revolution—who created domestic tension and agitation, including eight years of an unequal war and extensive deviant propaganda to mislead world public opinion and weaken the revolution—today it is possible to see that the order is progressing with the definite support of the people.

The president said that the enemy's designs against the Islamic revolution include the freezing of Iranian assets in America, economic sanctions imposed by the world arrogance, difficulties created at international organizations for Iran, and, worst of all, the baseless and unfair accusations regarding Iran's access to chemical and atomic weapons.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is enjoying a suitable position today and that it has carried out important projects in the fields of development and infrastructure, which have compensated for years of underdevelopment by the royal tyranny; and it has successfully implemented the First Five-Year Development Plan and was thus able to complete the process of progress and development in the various fields of politics, economy, culture; and is thus able to prove that Iran is able to stand independently in the present world conditions and manage its affairs with success.

Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani said that the lofty Islamic culture is the source of inspiration for the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the basis of friendly relations, mutual respect for other countries of the world, and noninterference in their affairs.

He added that because the Islamic Republic of Iran has opposed certain bullying policies of the world arrogance and defended the rights of the world's oppressed nations, they have created a biased, misleading, and random image regarding the export of the revolution to other parts of the world and have accused Iran of interfering in the affairs of other countries. But this has never been our country's official policy, which was repeatedly stated by the late Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

The president criticized the widespread propaganda by America and a number of other countries subservient to it, saying that Iran is trying to gain access to nuclear weapons. He described the propaganda as a new ploy in line with the political interests of world arrogance. He said: Destructive and anti-human nuclear weapons are against the culture, ideology, and the political viewpoint of this honorable system, and we have proven our

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adherence to the humanitarian principles of Islam during the eight-year-long imposed war.

He added: At a time when Iran's nuclear centers are being supervised by international institutions and time and time again Iran's humanitarian objectives have been endorsed by them, America, in order to cover up the nuclear capability of the Jerusalem occupying regime, which boldly refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, accuses Iran, which does not need nuclear weapons, of trying to gain access to such weapons.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The reason for Iran's opposition to America's arrogant policies is that regime's coercion, bullying, and domineering attitude. He said: As a free and revolutionary country, we oppose the monopolizing attitude toward developing countries and the powerful countries' interference in their affairs. This kind of thinking is one of the principles of the Islamic revolution of Iran which we continue to respect.

The president described the silence of the world countries toward the monopolizing attitude of the Jerusalem occupying regime in the region and the overt support of the United States for that regime as a clear act of oppression against today's humanity. He said: Is this right, that they contaminate the struggles of the Palestinian nation, which has been homeless for 50 years and lives in bad conditions, with the issue of terrorism by keeping silent in the face of the Israeli aircraft's bombardment of the Palestinian refugee camps, in order to say that these bombardments are justified?

He said: We explicitly oppose the bullying and biased logic of the government of America and we believe that there is no free-thinking person in the world who does not agree with such a way of thinking.

The president described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the biggest victim of terrorism in the world and stressed: International terrorists have committed numerous crimes in Iran and ran away to Western countries to seek refuge there; they have propaganda offices and radio and television stations in those countries, they meet the officials of some of these countries, and they have presented themselves at the United Nations and the parliaments of those countries. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran is accused of terrorism by propaganda mouthpieces. This is a tyrannical and a very shameful act.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the evil propaganda of the enemies regarding the violation of human rights in Iran as an unjust move with political motives. Addressing the ambassadors and political representatives of foreign countries in Iran, he said: You who are in Iran witness the fact that the press in our country can criticize the current policies of the country in a free and healthy climate. The debates of the Islamic Consultative Majles, too—unlike the policies of certain countries who claim to support human rights and freedom—are broadcast directly to the people by the radio.

He added: Today, through the blessing of the Islamic revolution, the Iranian people enjoy suitable freedom under the law, and their extensive presence on the various arenas of the revolution, as well as the huge and million-strong demonstrations, is a testimony to their all-encompassing support for the Islamic system of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We have always wanted relations of friendly cooperation with all the countries of the globe, especially the Islamic Third World countries and our neighbors. We are ready with all our might to invest in, strengthen, and extend friendship and brotherhood. [passage omitted]

Velayati Explains Foreign Policy Principles

LD0902211895 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Relations with other countries constitute an important foreign policy issue. On what principles does the Islamic Republic of Iran base its relations?

[Velayati] The three principles of honor, wisdom, and expediency stipulated by the eminent leader in fact form a framework for our political ties with other countries. We want to have relations with other countries on the basis of legal norms and mutual interest and respect; that is, if other countries wish to have relations with us within the framework of the same principles, we welcome that. That is what forms our criteria for having proper and acceptable foreign relations.

[Correspondent] I have a questions concerning ties with Islamic countries. Does the Islamic Republic of Iran give particular priority to its ties with those countries?

[Velayati] Naturally one of our priorities is to have satisfactory ties with Islamic countries. That is not an issue which only the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned with. Any country's political ties with other countries are based on common bonds with other states. The more numerous such common bonds are, the stronger and closer are the relations. One of the most important of such common bonds between us and other states is to have a common ideal. Our ideal is an Islamic ideal. Therefore, we have common goals with Islamic countries, we are close to them, and would like to have even closer ties. We have common interests, and today the common interests of the world of Islam constitute an undeniable matter. Supporting such common interests is to the advantage of all Islamic nations. And in order to be able to defend such common interests in a consolidated manner, we definitely need to have close ties with each other.

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[Correspondent] Some countries fail to move toward improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran under Western, particularly American, agitation.

[Velayati] What you say is correct. This is a source of sorrow for us. But all Muslim nations, independent of what their governments think, seek the glory of Islam and Muslims. Adhering to the policy of the Americans or the others will definitely not bring honor for Islam or the Muslim. On the contrary, it will cause their oppression. Unfortunately, some governments follow what is dictated to them. Their policies are determined by a changing factor outside their own borders. This is the source of the main problem that has existed in the Islamic world since the last century. The enthusiasm witnessed in the Islamic world today, striving to achieve liberty from the rule of foreigners, Zionists, and their supporters, indicates the growing strength of the feeling among Muslims that our honor and destiny is to achieve liberation from the yoke of foreigners.

[Correspondent] These days, one of the issues mentioned is the political, economic and propaganda pressure of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran. What is the reason for this pressure?

[Velayati] I have already answered your question partly in passing while responding to your previous questions. Since our people decided to become independent and throw off the domination of aliens, well, this provoked those who had vital interests in Iran, those foreign aliens who had many interests in Iran before the revolution under a subservient regime. It is natural that they will not just sit quietly. And it is exactly the same in other regions of the world. The history of people's struggles for freedom, independence, and national strength shows exactly this: those aliens whose [10-second break in transmission] the aliens always tried to stop this revolution from succeeding.

And after the revolution was victorious, they tried to overthrow our revolution. So if they put pressure on us, it is not unnatural or unexpected. Well, if we do not want to use the words natural or unnatural, we can use unexpected. Our people, government, and leadership have prepared themselves to tolerate these pressures and so far, they have been victorious in the face of these complicated plots. In future, too, our greatness will be tied to our resistance. If we stand forthright, we shall surely be successful. And national and Islamic greatness are tied to resistance in the face of the pressures put on us by our enemies.

The fate of other nations and Muslim peoples can be a model for us. There are non-Islamic countries which achieved independence in this century and tried to remain independent. They tolerated a great amount of pressure, and today, as we can see, they have become some of the stronger countries of the world. Some other countries could not resist, their national governments were overthrown to be replaced by a subservient one, and once again, those people went back. One day, they may start a movement to set themselves free. [passage omitted]

Velayati Interviewed on Aims of 'Diplomacy'

LD0602210695 Tehran IRNA in English 2032 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here on Monday [6 February] that Iran's diplomacy is aimed at building friendly relations with all neighbour countries.

In an interview with the Persian daily 'SALAM', Velayati said, "We do not regard the existing friendly relations with the Persian Gulf states as sufficient and seek closer ties in line with the interest of the regional countries."

He said Iran's relations with Pakistan serves as a model of Iranian foreign policy.

Some states in the Persian Gulf welcomed Iranian diplomacy to establish good neighbourly ties with Iran and some others did not do so as they should, he said. Lack of interest for relations with Tehran is an alien idea imposed on the Persian Gulf countries by the foreign intruders, he said.

Velayati added that after the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991 some countries consider themselves as indebted to the Western states for driving Iraqi forces out of Kuwait and that the military presence of the Western states and especially that of the U.S. has put security and the atmosphere of cooperation among the regional nations in jeopardy.

On the UAE's laying of claim to three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and its impact on regional security, he said one of the lessons which Iran taught to the world and to the states in the region during the eight years of Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) was that Iran never concedes any of its territory.

"Iran does not covet other's territory and it fiercely defends its own rights," he said.

On Iran's relations with Iraq, Velayati said there exists no problem concerning the good neighbourly relations with Iraq. The issue which should be taken into account in Iran-Iraq relations is lack of honesty and that Iraqi officials should not compromise reations with Iran in their efforts to make approaches to Western countries with whom Iran has difficulties.

Iraqi officials at times try to exploit the current relations with Iran for promoting relations with others rather than going ahead with the progress in bilateral relations, Velayati said. If Iraq regards relations with Iran as a lever for relations with others who are not sometime friendly with Iran, then such ties cannot be considered as deep-rooted and cordial, he added.

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On Iran's relations with the U.S., he said that as far as the Foreign Ministry was concerned there was no shift of policy in this regard and he saw no prospects for resumption of ties with the United States.

Velayati said there were numerous examples of countries which approached the U.S. in hope of financial assistance but got nothing. For instance, he said, the former Soviet Union was a superpower but shifted its policy towards the U.S. under Mikhail Gorbachev in the hope of getting loans from the U.S. and the Westerners spoke more in favour of the former Soviet Union, but, did less afterwards. Most of the promises were broken and the Westerners did not actually extend economic aid to the ex-Soviet Union and that Soviet officials got nothing in return for what they compromised, he concluded.

*Velayati on Role Toward Islamic Countries

95LA0070A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Dec 94 p 12

[Exclusive interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—first paragraph is ETTELA'AT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The execution of foreign policy, for a country which is not dependent on the West or the East but is rather dependent on divine values and deep convictions of the masses, is an art that requires a complex and elegant approach in this tumultuous world. Insistence on principles and ideals, and at the same time, adherence to established conventions acceptable to countries, requires a highly artful approach in the face of a conflicting set of requirements. When such an approach results in the relative fulfillment of desired objectives, it is a reflection of highest diplomatic achievement in the present chaotic world of conventions. A diplomatic delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by the foreign minister, attended the recent summit of the leaders of the Islamic countries held in Morocco. Not only did it participate broadly in negotiations, on committees and subcommittees, and in the decisionmaking process, but it also achieved important results for the foreign diplomacy and policy of the Islamic Republic. Such achievements, as well as an explanation of the Iranian position at the above summit, are the subjects of an exclusive interview by ETTELA'AT with the respected foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

[ETTELA'AT] The world is facing the phenomenon of an "Islamic wave." We, the journalists, believe that this is a very serious development, which involves the masses. Since the Islamic Republic has to observe the twin principles of noninvolvement in the internal affairs of other countries, as well as protection of the interests of Islam and Muslims, how would you explain a likely conflict in this regard?

[Velayati] Over the past 16 years from the victory of the Islamic revolution and as the Islamic Republic has taken shape, the issue you mentioned has also taken shape in our foreign policy. As you mentioned, there are some minute details involved in combining these two factors. Learning to attend to these details is an outcome of experience and practice. Other countries (especially Western countries) have had long experience in this regard. It involves their values and opinions. For example, they support democracy and human rights worldwide but also emphasize noninvolvement in the internal affairs of other countries. The world has gradually accepted this dichotomy. Therefore, what we are doing, or we are expected to do, is not without precedence in the world. In other words, contents may be different, but the form is the same. We support divine and Islamic values in the world. They support values of Humanism, or as was interpreted a 100 years ago, "Adamyat." Mirza Malkolm Khan used this term for the first time as the Persian equivalent of the word Humanism. They support values of Humanism, but we support divine and Islamic values, which are inclusive of human values.

[ETTELA'AT] My understanding of your response is that, as Muslims, we will fulfill our duty in supporting Islamic nations without breaching compulsory rules of international rights (like overt interference in the internal affairs of other countries). This support may be in verbal expressions, such as the view expressed by the Islamic Republic about Arab countries' compromise with the Zionist regime in the region. Two issues come to mind in this context. First, we are facing the rise of a new civilization. As the esteemed Leader said in his speech: "A new civilization is taking shape, and it can rise from the Islamic Republic of Iran." This discussion is more theoretical and is a subject for academic discourse. But our discussion with you, as the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is on the practical aspect of this view. Considering this view, what is our expectation from such international groups as the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]?

[Velayati] The ICO is a group that Islamic countries find useful. The effectiveness of this organization depends on the efforts of Islamic countries. The direction assumed by this organization is determined by the Islamic countries. Considering that Islamic countries pursue differing political tendencies, in a physical interpretation, the direction taken by the ICO is the net result of all the forces applied to it. If such forces are equal but are applied in opposite directions, the net result is a zero force and the ICO will have no real movement. We conclude from this analysis that if supporters of the revival of true Islamic values in the ICO try harder and assume more influence, they will have considerable impact. This has been proved through our experience over years, and the summit at Casablanca confirms this view too. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in all committees (primary committees), and we also participated in all subcommittees when their formation became necessary. The summit produced 400 pages of documents, and the Islamic

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Republic had either direct input into the creation, submission, and discussion of 200 pages (50 percent) of the final or earlier drafts of these documents or played an essential role in their production and final approval. Therefore, as you have noticed, what was approved in Casablanca was very different than what had caused the earlier worries.

[ETTELA'AT] It appears that the Islamic Republic of Iran is much more active in pursuing the above policy in relation to the ICO, and it finds the ICO to be an appropriate tribunal for enunciating its views. We faced a new phenomenon at the Casablanca summit when some Islamic countries were inclined to come up with a new definition for terrorism. This has caused worries for popular governments. Some governments in the ICO adhere to a definition of terrorism that is different from what we believe. Will you explain the origins of this definition and the efforts of the Islamic Republic in presenting its views on terrorism.

[Velayati] You have pointed to an important issue. We have been very active in this regard. The Westerners have the habit of (they have invented and pursue this method) branding as terrorist those countries that do not cooperate with their ways. This is nothing new. Anyone who refuses to be dominated by the West is called a terrorist. We have confronted this plot and, God willing, we will increase our efforts in this regard. What was approved in Casablanca is to a great extent based on what we believe. First of all, we condemned the phenomenon of terrorism. In a number of interviews, I emphasized that we are ourselves victims of terrorism. Many of our great personalities were martyred at the hands of terrorists after the revolution. These terrorists presently live in the Western countries under the protection of the West. It is not only a claim by us when we say that our officials were assassinated by some terrorists who are supported from the outside. The minigroups that engage in terrorism have admitted their crimes. When they began these acts, they assumed that they could destroy the regime with their terror. They publicly accepted responsibility for their acts. Because they did not achieve their objective and caused embarrassment to the West, they have retreated from their original position and do not claim acts of terrorism any more but have terrorist backgrounds. We condemned terrorism because we are against it, and we are its victims. We confront terrorism, as do countries like us and the ICO, differently from what the Westerners have in mind. What was approved in Casablanca was a condemnation of all types of terrorism, including state terrorism. By state terrorism we mean terrorist acts carried out by states or with their support. Westerners are against using this phrase because it applies to Israelis and their government more than any one else. The Israeli regime penetrates publicly into Lebanon, kidnaps innocent individuals, and announces its acts. An example of this is the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, who is a cleric from southern Lebanon and a spiritual man who has committed no crime or violation. Although in the belief system of Westerners such acts are considered to be clear examples of terrorism, Israel is exempt from this rule because it is their illegitimate offspring and one that receives their unconditional support. For example, their attack on Ba'labakk, which led to the martyrdom of some inhabitants, or the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani are clear manifestations of terrorism. We included the phrase state terrorism, which Westerners refuse to include in international conventions, in the communique of the ICO. This shows that what was approved in Casablanca was based on the views of countries like the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. Another point more important than the previous one is the fact that we distinguished between liberation wars and terrorism. If you listen to the Voice of America or Israel, you hear that they freely use the term "Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist group" or "Hezbollah terrorist group." They easily brand them as terrorist. What is Hamas doing? Hamas tries to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation. This is a most legitimate right of human beings. What is Hezbollah doing? It tries to liberate Lebanon, or part of Lebanon, from Israeli occupation. Israel calls them terrorists. In this communique, we distinguished between mojahedin and resistance groups and terrorists. We said that we condemn terrorism and terrorists, but those who fight for the liberation of their homeland are different and are engaged in praiseworthy activities. Therefore, these two points in the communique stand out in contrast to the opinions of the Western circles and represent the desired characteristics of the Islamic world.

[ETTELA'AT] In relation to the definition you gave, two issues come to mind: First, there is the worry and danger that the ruling regime in Egypt may deal with opposition to that regime as terrorists, or other regimes such as the one in Algeria. The other issue is whether the Islamic Republic is intent upon presenting to international forums these joint definitions by Islamic countries of human rights or terrorism as collective beliefs of Islamic countries.

[Velayati] What is approved at the ICO is different from what is understood about it in various countries. Any good thing can be manipulated to look bad. What is important is that our utterances and declarations must be acceptable within the framework of our principles. Nobody should approve of terrorism, but mixing Islamic and human resistance with terrorism is an unacceptable deviation. As for presenting this issue at international forums, it is possible and we will do it. Essentially, the member countries of the ICO, together with observer countries, form one-third of the membership of the United Nations. If an issue is approved unanimously or with a majority vote at the ICO, it means that we have one-third of the global vote, and this is bound to be effective. In many instances, we have used such approvals at other international forums.

[ETTELA'AT] As you said, if we have such a strong tribunal in the ICO, why does the Islamic Republic not

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try to use a collective position on behalf of the Islamic countries to make the world accept that the issue of "Salman Rushdi" is the concern of the entire Islamic world not just Iran, and that Imam Khomeyni's historic verdict was an Islamic verdict.

[Velayati] As a matter of fact, this has happened. At the Casablanca summit, Salman Rushdi was condemned once more. The approved communique states that Salman Rushdi is condemned and expresses regret over the support given by the Western countries to a person, who at least among Muslims and Islamic countries, is considered to be a hateful apostate. We took one step further. In less than a month, Islamic countries issued a resolution at the United Nations and stated their view one more time on the condemnation of Salman Rushdi. Contrary to what you said that the Islamic Republic has not used this opportunity, we have seized this opportunity many times. I have used this opportunity a number of times. When I was questioned about the reason for the leader of revolution to issue a death sentence against a citizen of another country, I have always answered to diplomats and journalists that this is not just the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is the view of the entire Islamic world. This is not just the view of the Shiites but the view of all Muslims that any one who offends Prophet Mohammad, his blood must be shed. When I refer to approved declarations, they have nothing to say.

This course of action has been definitely effective in dealing with some Western countries that resort to every type of pressure on countries that do not agree with them. When one-third of membership of the United Nations agrees on an issue and repeatedly states their agreement in their declarations, this is definitely effective in blocking the Western action. The fact that Western countries try to support positions against the consensus of the Islamic world is not based on their power. They are forced to behave in this way. The usual method of Western countries is to use a smoke screen in carrying out their intentions. When we ask them, why do you oppose Muslims' view, they respond: We are not against the view of Muslims. When we say, why do you support a person who offends the sacredness of Islam, they respond: We do not approve of such a thing. They cannot say openly that they defend offending Islamic values, but because of the pressure from the Islamic world they have been pushed into a corner, cannot use a smoke screen, and have no choice but to take an unmasked position.

[ETTELA'AT] There is the view that the ICO must assume its true position so that Islamic nations can realize their ideals, such as formation of a common market and creation of a tribunal for settlement of regional disputes. Presently, the Arab-Israeli issue is the greatest problem and worry of the Islamic world. After that there are disputes among some Muslim nations. In your opinion, how effective can the ICO be in solving these problems? Will this organization be forced in a direction that can turn it into a tool for the imposition of the policies of Zionist regime on the Islamic countries and legitimizing its existence?

[Velayati] If we try to be absolutist in practical matters, we will not achieve anything. We must have a plan for implementing our ideals. We will be mistaken in our evaluation if we assume that Muslims, as the most vital nation in their ideals (no other people or religion in the present world has as much enthusiasm or motivation to realize its divine ideals), can simply will to infuse the world with their human and social ideals and achieve speedy results. Implementing theories and realizing ideals need planning, action, perseverance, patience, and consistency. To ascertain whether we are on the right path, we must compare our current position in relation to this Organization with that of five or 10 years ago. If we have made significant progress, that means we are on the right path. If the ICO is abandoned by motivated countries, it will turn into what we do not desire. Some may not have the patience and perseverance, or they may not be able to tolerate opposing views, or they may not be strong enough for the battle and simply remain outside the battlefield and express worry, cynicism, and anger about what is taking place without taking any practical steps. This surely will not solve any problem. By shouting out about problems without taking practical steps, problems will not go away. If one takes a step, success will result to the extent possible. The more efforts are exerted, the more success will result.

[ETTELA'AT] Let us identify the existing concerns so that we may be able to evaluate the summit's atmosphere, expectations, and results. This will enable us better to understand what you called the summit's achievements.

[Velayati] One of these concerns is the issue of Palestine. In some circles outside of Iran, statements had been made that caused worries inside the country and the esteemed leader had referred to them. The issue is that some expect a degrading compromise to take place regarding the Palestinian problem and the concern was that the Casablanca summit might legitimize that compromise. The other concern, which was also caused by certain statements, was the possibility that a proposal might be approved to the effect that we must behave in a way that the Islamic world will have a good image in the West. The third concern was the possibility of inaction in relation to the grave issues facing the Islamic world, such as the Bosnian issue. The other concern directly affecting the Islamic Republic was that certain machinations may take place to undermine our request for hosting the 8th summit in Tehran and prevent its approval. About the first concern, what was approved on Palestine was not worse than previous decisions, and in some respects, it was even better. Some of our countrymen may ignore the international climate and decisions regarding Palestine compared to our position. If one does not consider this factor, it can lead to misjudgment. We have not agreed with any decision made about

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Palestine at international forums since the victory of the Islamic revolution. If we look into the background, Arabs who were led politically by 'Abd al-Nasir, as the leader of the Arab world, did not give any legitimacy to the Israeli regime in any part of Palestine until 1967. After 1967, following the Arab defeat at Israeli hands, the situation changed. From that point, all Arabs, whether revolutionary or not, accepted the two resolutions of the Security Council (Resolutions 242 and 338) as the basis for the Palestinian issue. Based on these resolutions, Israel has legitimacy within the 1948 borders. Therefore, after the 1967 war, even revolutionary Arab regimes recognized the legitimacy of Israel within the 1948 borders. After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and when we declared our position on Palestine in various occasions, our position was the same as the original position of revolutionary Muslims and Arabs. In this position, the Zionist regime has no legitimacy anywhere in Palestine. Even one inch of Palestinian land shall not be given to Israel. This is a unique position. No one in the world, neither the members of the former Eastern block and nonaligned nations, nor China, the Third World, Indians, Africans, Arabs, or Muslims has a position like ours on the Palestinian problem. Because international forums make decisions based on majority vote or consensus, one country's vote cannot change anything. Therefore, our view has not been approved at any international forum, and we do not anticipate any change in the near future. What is the solution? We participate at such gatherings, and based on the instruction of the esteemed Leader, clearly state our views without any reservation. Decisions are made that are different from our ideas, but they state our position too. This was also the case in Casablanca. The decisions made there were not worse than former decisions. They agreed on the principle of Israeli-Arab negotiations, which was opposed only by the Islamic Republic of Iran. As before, they approved the continuance of the negotiations and we objected (both verbally in my speech, as well as in a letter included in the documentation). This was our decisive position. In his closing remarks during the last day, the head of the summit (the king of Morocco) stated that there are differences of opinion among Islamic countries on the Palestinian issue and there is no consensus in this regard. The ICO functions based on consensus, but there was no consensus on the issue of Palestine and such new issues as Gaza-Jericho. Therefore, even the Gaza-Jericho compromise was not approved at the Islamic Conference. There was a concern that some recent and degrading moves by a few Muslim countries, or some factions among Palestinians, may gain legitimacy from the Conference. This did not take place. Even some points were emphasized that were not in former communiques and this was a positive development at the recent summit. Also, "Quds" was declared a Muslim land and the capital of Palestine. Furthermore, repressive actions of Israel were condemned, and the need to liberate occupied land in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria was emphasized. This communique is acceptable to us, and each country has its own interpretation of it. When we say liberation of occupied Palestinian land, we mean the entire Palestine. Others mean land occupied in 1967. The other point was condemnation of division of the Shrine of Abraham. The other concern was about those who, because of the pressure from the West on Muslims and Islamic values, want to change us so that we present a desired face to the West and the world. We strongly objected to this move. I clearly stated that the process must be reversed. The Westerners must correct their behavior so that the hatred toward them in the Third World may be abated. They must behave in a way that such hatred may decrease and be eradicated. They create hatred toward themselves in Muslim communities by supporting every insane and alienated person who offends Islamic values in the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds. If Westerners want peaceful coexistence with Muslims, they must correct their behavior. This was approved, and the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran dominated this issue, which is the basis for many decisions at the Islamic Conference. The other concern was about Bosnia. Our criticism was that, on the Bosnian issue, we should not satisfy ourselves with just words, but we must take action. The Bosnian people are under pressure, and as Muslims on the front lines of Islam in Europe, they are being ruthlessly slaughtered. As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, friend and foe confess that the most effective country, or one of the most effective countries, in helping Bosnia is the Islamic Republic of Iran. About 12 days ago, at the meeting of the contact group of the Islamic Conference in Geneva and in the presence of representatives of Islamic countries, the president of Bosnia, Mr. Izetbegovic, clearly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the forefront of the helpers of Bosnia. Also, he emphasized that if it were not for the help from the Islamic Republic of Iran, they could not mount the resistance in Bihaj. He is an outspoken revolutionary who states the right and wrong without reservation. Fortunately, the recent summit of the Islamic Conference took a major step in the right direction. Many of the proposals discussed at the summit were presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran. These proposals were approved in the political committee and later in the ministerial meeting and the summit of the heads of states. The totality of decisions about Bosnia can be summarized in two categories. In the first category, the Islamic countries will prepare to provide the personnel and equipment for the United Nations peacekeeping forces if the European countries decide to pull out their forces. This will not leave any excuse for the Western countries and the United Nations. France and Britain had threatened to pull out their forces. We approved the alternative in Geneva, and it was confirmed at the summit. The effect of this decision was that France and Britain announced that they will not pull out their forces because some Western circles believed that if the Europeans leave the Islamic forces will replace them, and they find this not in the interest of Europe. This showed the impact of our action. We gave the United Nations the freedom to supply the

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necessary forces or we would send forces. They have no excuse for abandoning the Bosnian people to be slaughtered by Serbs. In addition to forces, we also discussed other logistics. For example, United Nations forces need armored vehicles for transporting personnel to serve in Bihaj, Sarajevo, or other spots. Also, they may be in locations with needs for radars and other long-distance communication facilities. It was decided that, if other countries remove such equipment from Bosnia, the Islamic countries will replace them. In the second category of decisions about Bosnia, the Islamic countries agreed to send all necessary materials for the welfare of the people in Bosnia. You can understand that these decisions are contrary to the United Nations' decisions. Muslims have tried many times at the United Nations to lift the ban on the export of weapons to Bosnia. They were able to get the General Assembly to approve the lifting of the ban twice. The Security Council was not able to decide on this issue because of the influence of some permanent members. Finally, the Islamic countries did not wait for the United Nations and issued permission at the Islamic Conference to member countries to help the Bosnian people. Article 51 of the United Nations charter permits any nation to resort to any means for its defense, including receiving defensive help in any way possible. We proved legally that the weapons ban on the former Yugoslavia does not apply to Bosnia. The other effort was to establish a fund for Bosnia. This was accomplished. We had another proposal for the dispatch of volunteer forces from Islamic countries to Bosnia based on Article 51 of the Charter. This proposal was not passed at the Islamic Conference. The fourth concern was about the 8th summit. It had been decided that the 8th summit will be held in Tehran (based on the decision in Senegal). Before the summit of the heads of states, there were whispers that indicated the appearance of some rivals on the scene, specifically Lebanon and Pakistan. It was announced in Lebanon that they have volunteered to hold the 8th summit. Pakistan was another candidate and wanted to hold the summit of the heads of states because of the republic's 50th anniversary. We reasoned that based on prior decisions, the summit must be held in Iran. Furthermore, during the 25 years from the establishment of the ICO, its summit has never been held in Iran. Since Iran is a large and important Islamic country, it deserves to hold the summit of the Islamic Conference. The conference of heads of states had been held once in "Lahor." The Conference has been held in turn in each region, namely, in Black Africa (Senegal), in Arab countries (Morocco), and it is now the turn of Asia, where Iran deserves most to hold the summit of the heads of states. There was an intense competition in Morocco for hosting the next summit. There were a lot of efforts, and eventually it was decided to hold the summit in Tehran. One month before, our colleagues had started their intense efforts. The expert gathering took place four weeks in advance in Jeddah, where the basis for decisions was made. The Iranian delegation actively participated in this gathering. The gathering of foreign ministers was held last week in Casablanca, and members of the Iranian delegation had a good participation. These efforts continued at the summit of the heads of states, and significant decisions were made, and the Islamic Republic of Iran played an effective role. This success was not achieved easily and was the result of continuous efforts of our colleagues.

Health Minister Reports First 5-Year Plan Results

LD0602133495 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi said that despite the drastic losses incurred by Iran during the Iraqi imposed war as well as the natural disasters and other shortcomings, the country's health services during the First Five-Year Plan have been highly satisfactory.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, published Monday [6 February], Marandi elaborated on his ministry's accomplishments by saying that over 4,340 health centers, 7,810 rural health clinics, 291 urban emergency centers, 55 provincial hospitals and 300 pediatric centers across the country have been established within the period.

"82 percent of children under six years old have been vaccinated, 1,200 health centers for factory workers established, death rate for children under one year old and mothers decreased to 35 per thousand from the previous 45 per thousand and from 91 per one hundred thousand to 53 per one hundred thousand, respectively," the minister stressed.

Diseases such as diarrhea, lung-related illnesses, iodine deficiency, diabetis, thalassemia and heart problems have been effectively fought during the First Five-Year Plan, Marandi noted.

Commenting on the extent of rural people's access to health services which was 70 percent at the end of the first plan, he expressed hope that the figure will reach 95 percent by the end of the second plan, provided the required budget will be properly allocated.

"Health is of utmost priority in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and wherever we invest for health the costs in terms of medical care drop drastically," the daily quoted him as saying.

Marandi underlined the immunization protection of society which is expected to reach the satisfactory level of 95 percent by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

"By our investment in vaccination programs, many infectious diseases such as diphteria will vanish and life expectancy will increas," he said, adding that the present death rate figure for diarrhea has also been lowered to nine per thousand from the previous 36 per thousand.

Commenting on the birth control policies of the government, the health minister said this is both to the benefit

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of mothers and their chidren and is one of the main objectives of the health policies of the government in the second plan.

"The population growth rate worldwide is now about 1.7 percent. in Iran it was 3.9 percent at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan, which has dropped to 1.8 percent at present and, hopefully, will still go down to as the second five-year plan," he said.

He noted that birth control policies of the government provide an effective leverage for social as well as economic development of the country.

The number of hospitals built during these years has increased from 606 to 710 or a total of 13,800 new beds added to the country, Marandi continued.

One hundred new emergency units have been established in hospitals around the country and hemodyalysis sections have increased by 47 percent, he stressed.

On training activites of the ministry, he said, "membership of our medical board has increased from 4,000 physicians in 1989 to 7,400 in 1993 and the number of blood transfusion centers from 53 to 78."

Efforts had been made to upgrade the level of health education in the second plan, he said and noted that to this end steps had been taken to distribute the facilities more equitably among all the provinces of the country.

Pointing to the number of medical students in the country, both in private and government schools, Marandi said that in 1983 there were 124,067 students, hoping that the number will be increased to 161,612 in 1995.

"Our first priority in training and education is growth in quality of our physicians based on the requirements of our society," he underlined.

The health minister concluded by saying that the amount invested in the production of medicine in the country has increased from rls. 109 billion to around rls. 500 billion by the end of the first plan.

Joint Natural Gas Field To Be Exploited With Oman

LD0902113295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran and Oman are to cooperate in exploiting the join natural gas field of Hangam-Khasib. The manager of the exploration department of the National Iranian Oil Company—who is also the supervisor of the company's office for international cooperation—today referred to the recently held third round of talks in Muscat between experts from the two countries. He said: Tehran and Muscat have agreed to have extensive cooperation to develop the joint gas field, determine the method of its exploitation, and market its products.

He added: The exploitation of this joint gas field is to begin in less than three years time. It has been projected that the gas field has reserves of around one trillion square feet.

Baku Supports NIOC's Membership in Oil Consortium

LD0802230895 Tehran IRNA in English 2224 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Due to Iran's full compliance with the conditions of the Azerbaijan Oil Consortium's conditions, Baku officially supports Tehran's membership in the said consortium, an official of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced here Wednesday [8 February].

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Seyyed Mahdi Hoseyni, briefed on the results of his recent visit to Baku.

He said according to the contract, the oil consortium has a 90-day period to respond to the letter by Azeri officials in which they have supported Iran's membership in the consortium.

The other members of the consortium are not entitled to reject Iran's membership in the consortium in view of the fact that Iran has fully complied with the conditions stipulated in the contract, he said.

Hoseyni continued that if Iran's membership is not accepted because of political pessures, the action of members of the consortium would be deemed illegal and against the provisions of the contract.

He said the main conditions required for membership is, having technical and financial potentials and having economic ties with consortium members.

Hoseyni said it is not in the benefit of consortium members to disregard Iran's membership in making use of the largest oil field in the Caspian Sea.

He stressed that NIOC's membership in the consortium will pose no problems for other member countries but on the other hand would provide various facilities including a degree of flexibility in the consotium's future activities and economic benefits.

He further touched on Iran's offer to the consotium to provide an export outlet for Azerbaijani oil via Iranian soil, and said Iran could also refine Azerbaijani crude in Tabriz, capital city of Iran' East Azarbaijan province, whithout any new investments.

Hoseyni said Iran is able to refine 250,000 barrels a day of Azeri oil and facilitate its flow to the world markets daily.

Among the other potentials of the Iranian Oil Ministry, he added, are the storage tanks at Bandar Anzali on the Caspian Sea from where Azeri oil could be pumped to the Tehran-Tabriz trunkline by laying a 80 to 100 km pipeline.

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He pointed out that Iran is the most economical and safest route for flow of Azeri oil to the international markets.

However, said Hoseyni, since Washington opposes the passage of Azerbaijan pipeline via Iran, it is making utmost efforts to foil the project and is resorting to political pressures.

He termed the recent statement by the American Embassy in this regard as interference in the internal affairs of Iran and Azerbaijan.

According to Hoseyni Turkey wants to increase in its share in the consortium to more than the current 1.75 percent, and the minimum that 'Socar' the Azerbaijani oil company can assign is 5 per cent.

Any oil pipeline for transfer of Azeri crude through Iran for the international markets, has to next pass through Turkey and its Black Sea ports.

Asked to comment on the likelihood that Azerbaijan would concede its shares to big oil companies like Shell, Mobil and others due to financial and economic bottlenecks, he said it was unlikely, although the said companies have active presence in Baku and have already proposed to Azeri officials in this regard.

On the outcome of his visit to Baku, Hoseyni said during his visit he followed up the earlier negotiations on Iran's membership in the oil consortium, and also discussed its broadlines during talks with the Azerbaijan parliament speaker, and the managing director of the Azerbaijan State Oil Company.

Removal of ambiguities, giving NIOC a 5 per cent share, agreement on Iran's membership with rights and responsibilities equal to that of the other members of the consortium were other issues discussed in talks with Azeri offficials, he added.

Paying the required fee to the Azerbijan State Oil Company, equal to Socar's budget for 1995 by NIOC one month after Iran's official becomes a memeber of the consortium was also discussed.

NIOC's share of investment plus other expenses of the project is about dlrs. 400 million, yet, Hoseyni added, this will not mean that Iran has to pay in cash. All that Iran has to do initially is to pay about 30 percent of the amount and after the oil field becomes opperational it can sell the extracted oil to make up for the rest of the amount.

He said preliminary production is expected to start within 18 months of drilling with the field expected to yield 80,000 to 100,000 barrels a day.

American and European oil companies are holding 80 per cent of the consortium shares, while the rest belongs to Socar which in turn has allotted 5 per cent of its holdings to NIOC, he concluded.

Company Signs $1 Million Granite Export Contract

LD0902105595 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—An Iranian company has signed contracts worth dlrs. one million with a number of European, American and Persian Gulf countries for the export of granites.

Hamid Reza Rahbar, head of Ahrar Company in Hamadan Province, said that the granite would be exported as of the beginning of the next Iranian calendar year (to start March 21).

He said that the granite production company, covered by the company, is the biggest of its kind in the Middle East, adding that its revenues this year amounted to rls. one billion.

Rahbar noted that three unique and rich ganite mines have been exploited in Hamadan and said that the exceptional beauty and high quality of the stone was one of the many reasons for a high demand among other countries.

*First Wire Production Line Equipment Built

95P50055A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Esfahan. A production line for the manufacturing of twisted wire has been built for the first time in the country. Measuring 260 meters long and weighing 380 tons, this equipment was built by Iranian specialists and is ready for installation in Esfahan Steel Mill.

This production line will be able to supply, annually at a reasonable price for export, 450,000 tons of twisted wire that is formed into skeins and that ranges in diameter from 5.5 to 16 millimeters.

According to our correspondent, this equipment conforms with international design standards, and in comparison with foreign samples it is of higher quality in design and construction. This equipment has a fully automated production and packaging system. According to our specialists, the construction of this equipment by domestic specialists and engineers has saved the country approximately $1.7 million in foreign exchange.

Based on Esfahan Steel Mill reports, the designing of this production line is the product of the joint efforts of Iran and Italy. The construction of this equipment, on the whole, was accomplished utilizing domestic potential.

Pakistan

Papers Detail Ramzi Yusuf Activities, Arrest

Two Year 'Man-Hunt' Ends

BK1002103795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Feb 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi: The arrest on Tuesday [7 February] of Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, who had allegedly

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played a leading role in 650-kg bomb explosion in the basement of the World Trade Centre in New York on February 26, 1993, also marked the first anti-terrorist raid carried out jointly by Pakistani and the United States investigative services, informed officials said.

Two senior officials from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) along with the sleuths from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) directorate had raided the Islamabad Guest House and had swiftly bundled Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf to a nearby location after being identified by the US officials present on the scene.

Soon after his arrest from the Su-Casa Guest House in Islamabad around 9.30 a.m. on February 7, Ramzi was officially handed over to the United States Embassy in Islamabad. His extradition orders were quickly prepared and a few hours later the Palestinian was on board a special plane that took him to New York city where he pleaded not guilty before a court yesterday.

Ramzi had checked into Room No 16 of the Su-Casa Guest House around mid-night on February 6. Officials said that Ramzi was lured to the comfort of this guest house from his hide-out in Peshawar falling into a trap laid jointly by the FBI and ISI officials. It was, however, officially stated in Islamabad that Ramzi had arrived in Pakistan from Thailand on Sunday last.

The entire operation remained such a secret that several hours after Ramzi's arrest by the US and Pakistani officials, operatives from the Intelligence Bureau visited the guest house to confirm a rumour that a foreigner has been kidnapped from the Su-Casa Guest House.

Tuesday's arrest of Ramzi Yusuf ended a two-year long man-hunt by the US law enforcing agencies to arrest the man who allegedly played a significant role in the most dangerous act of terrorism on American soil. The US law enforceing agencies had billed him as one of the most wanted persons and the State Department, besides some philanthropists in the United States had promised a bounty of about US $2 million on information leading to his arrest.

Ramzi, besides the WTC bombing case, was also one of the 22 accused persons being tried in New York for charges that included a plot to kill the Egyptian President Hosni Mobarak, UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali and also to blow-up the crowded Lincoln and Holland Tunnels that connect New York City with New Jersey.

Interviews conducted by this correspondent revealed that Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf entered the United States from Pakistan in September 1992 soon after the bombing of the World Trade Centre. [sentence as published] Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, using his Pakistani passport under the name of Abdul Basit took a Karachi-bound PLA flight from New York and soon after landing here boarded a connecting flight for Quetta. There was no trace of Ramzi after that journey to Quetta.

When Ramzi was arrested on Tuesday he had a fresh Pakistan national identity card made for him under the name of Ali Mohammad from the small town of Pasni in Balochistan. In is believed that Ramzi spent the entire period of his hiding in various Pakistani cities. It is understood that he was located after a gruelling probe that stemmed from the names and telephone numbers from his personal phone book. Ramzi had mistakenly left his phone book in New Jersey before flying to Karachi.

Ramzi, like many other accused in the massive terrorist case in New York, was a veteran of the Afghan war and had numerous friends all over the country. His diary revealed that he had friends in Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and in Iranian Balochistan. Scores of telephone numbers of various Pakistani cities were listed in his phone book.

Though Ramzi is believed to have been born in Kuwait, before moving to various Middle-Eastern countries, the paper trail that included his travelling documents, his telephone calls and other related material shows him to be a Pakistan national. One of his passports shows "near Usmania Mosque in Jehangirabad," a Baluchi neighbourhood in Karachi as his address.

The investigation in the US revealed that besides being a close associate of Mahmud Abouhallma, the main accused in the case, Ramzi worked in close coordination with Ahmed Ajaj who knew him from Peshawar. Ahmed Ajaj, like Ramzi, a man of unknown Middle-Eastern origin had entered the United States on false visas from Pakistan. Ajaj, again like Ramzi, had the expertise in bomb manufacturing.

Investigations in the United States disclosed that most of the accused persons in this case including, Ramzi, Ajaj and Abouhalima were the pupils of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, another veteran of the Afghan war and a resident of Peshawar for several years. Sheikh Rahman was identified as the leader in the conspiracy to blow up the World Trade Centre and of other abortive attempts to blow up many important landmarks in New York.

Because of Ramzi's wide connections in Pakistan, some security officials suspected that many other members of his network could still be hiding in Pakistan and that they might resort to a retallatory strike.

After Ramzi's arrest the US and Pakistani investigative agencies, a senior official said, still have the task of tracing Aimal Kansi, the young Pakistani from Balochistan, who had opened fire on CIA officials outside its headquarters in Langley, Virginia, two years ago. Kansi who had returned back to his home town Quetta soon after the incident is still missing since the US officials identified him as the culprit in the case.

Interior Minister Reviews Arrest

BK1002100295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Feb 95 p pp 1,13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, the most wanted person in the United States and

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absconder since 1993 in the World Trade Center bombing, was arrested here in Islamabad and handed over to the US authorities on Tuesday [7 February], officials said.

"He was arrested from a hotel in Rana Market (F-7/2) with explosives like toy bombs, chemicals and instruments for manufacturing such bomb", Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar told The Nation on Thursday.

Babar added that he was flown to New York the same day on a US aircraft. Ramzi Yusuf, an Iraqi national was the most sought-after suspected terrorist for being key figure in the February 26, 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York that killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

US authorities had offered a two million dollar reward for the return of Ramzi Yusuf. Yusuf, 27, an engineer, had left the US soon after the bombing incident and was believed to have reached Pakistan.

Eleven other suspects are under trial in this case including their leader blind Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.

US authorities feared that the bombing was the first part of broader plot to target key New York buildings including the United Nations headquarters and FBI headquarters.

He was considered important suspect for helping the import, manufacturing and storing material and chemicals used in the bombing.

Nasirullah Babar said Pakistan was obliged to return Yusuf to Washington under extradition treaty and on a request from Interpol and the US government. He said Interpol had put Pakistan on red alert fearing the accused was somewhere in the country.

He said under the international law, it was incumbent upon Pakistan to take action on the request of Interpol.

Babar said Pakistan had completed all legal formalities before flying Ramzi back to the US. "Permission was taken from the court of Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) in Islamabad before complying with the extradition treaty," he added. The Interior Minister said there was a possibility that Ramzi was involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan as explosives were recovered from his room. "There seems no other use of those explosives", he said.

He said Ramzi Yusuf had been going out of Pakistan during this period and his last visit had been to Bangkok (Thailand). "Pakistani security agencies tracked him down and there was no foreign official or security agency involved in conducting the operation. The tip of his whereabouts was provided by Pakistani intelligence agencies", Babar said.

A Foreign Office spokesman added that preliminary investigations indicated that Ramzi was Iraqi national but this could not be ascertained whether he travelled on a fake name. [Karachi DAWN in English on 10 February in a similar report on pages 1 and 16 quotes a Foreign Office spokesman as saying: "He is clearly not Pakistani."]

To a question that Ramzi had received terrorist training in Peshawar, the spokesman said several people trained by agencies of other countries poured in Pakistan during Afghan war.

To another question, he said there was no further information about Ramzi whether he stayed in Pakistan or Afghanistan. However, the spokesman denied that Ramzi was arrested from the Iraqi Embassy.

[Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER on 10 February in English in a similar report on page 3 adds: "Meanwhile, the chairman of National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee and chief of Jamiatul-Ulema-e-Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, has condemned the extradition of Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf. "In my personal opinion, he should not have been handed over to the United States," he said.]

Witnesses Recount Arrest

BK1002095595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Feb 95 p pp 1,13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The arrest of Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf on Tuesday [7 February], an Iraqi national accused of master-minding the New York World Trade Centre bombing, took place in a well-orchestrated operation conducted jointly by officials of Pakistan security agencies and allegedly at least six US security personnel, witnesses said.

His abode, at the time of arrest, Su-Casa House, a guest house situated in F7/2 facing Rana Market, is hardly two streets away from the official residence of the Iraqi Ambassador. His guarantor, who recommended Ramzi to the guest house, is believed to be an Iraqi student at the International Islamic University who lives in a flat in Rana Market.

Witnesses said from the time Ramzi was arrested from his room number 16 of the guest house at about 9.30 on Tuesday morning, security agencies were trying to locate the Iraqi student whose name could not be known. Shop-keepers and people living nearby said raids were being conducted at his flat for two days but the agencies could not arrest him.

Witnesses, who wished not to be named, claimed that the Iraqi student was well-known in the market having acquaintances with people in the area. They said they had seen the Iraqi student with a new friend on Monday evening, the day Ramzi checked in at the guest house. "They walked in the market for about 30 minutes without leaving a clue about who the new guest was."

Staff of the guest house told The Nation that Ramzi checked-in at the guest house at 4.30 on Monday evening. They said he carried two small suit cases, spoke

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English and a few sentences of Urdu as well. His comprehension of Urdu was quite well indicating he had been living here for long. They said the suit cases bore the tags with Bangkok written on it.

"For us he was just another guest. We did not have a clue who be was. If we knew who he was, we would have put our lives at stake to get him arrested since the reward of two million dollars was on the line," said staff of the guest house and witnesses of the incident.

The staff said he had a Pakistani Identity Card, issued from Quetta, bearing the name Ali Mohammad. He said he filled in the guest house card as required and mentioned a address of Karachi was his permanent residence. The staff said he immediately went to his room and returned at 9.30 pm when his Iraqi friend came to see him. He made two telephone calls to Peshawar and a few in Islamabad between the time of 8.30 and 9.30 pm

The staff said the register and card having his address of Karachi, Identity Card photo copy, telephone numbers he called were confiscated by the raiding party and the guest house had no other record.

The guest house staff said during his 15-hour stay, including the night of February 7, Ramzi did not ask for anything to eat. "Not even a cup of tea. He did not leave his room at all except when he went out wi'h his friend at 9.30 pm and returned after an hour," the staff said.

The staff said he did not fast. "Totally unexpected at 9 in the morning, at least 10 people in plain clothes walked in the guest house. Four of them were foreigners, they must have been Americans," one of the staff who was on duty Tuesday morning said.

They did not say a word except "Where is room 16. The staff said they walked straight into his room and returned with my guest of room 16 his face covered with a black hood and a gun pointed on his neck. They did not say a word again and put him in cars parked outside and drove away.

The staff said they had the least clue of what was going on. In fact, they said they were not told of anything.

Spokeepers in Rana Market confirmed that the raiding party consisted of a number of Pakistan security personnel and a few white nationals believed to be Americans. "They were holding wireless sets, all dressed in plain clothes and looked quite active.

One witness, on the basis of anonymity, said no police official or vehicle was with the raiding party that had surrounded the area and particularly the guest house at 7 am on Tuesday morning.

They kept vigilant making mysterious moves for two hours till about 9.30 am they finally made a move into the guest house. The security staff entered the neighbouring houses while others reached the back terrace. In a few minutes of operation, the security staff returned with a "person in the middle, head covered with a black hood and a gun pointed at his neck," the witness added. He was taken away in a few minutes while others raided the flat of Iraqi friend living just across the road. The security staff including the foreigners entered his flat but could not find him there. Ever since, the security staff has been raiding his flat from time to time but fail to arrest him said the witness.

Editorial Sees Danger in Expanded NATO Frontiers

BK1002131995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Lengthening shadows of NATO"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Defence Secretary is playing a new tune these days: expand the frontiers of NATO. While assuring Yeltsin that Moscow would not be isolated, the drive for new members for this Cold War legacy is on; Poland and the Czech Republic will be recruited soon in this US sponsored bloc. Even more important was his statement that the horizons of NATO would be extended to the Middle East and North Africa!

NATO was created to protect American allies from the Soviet influence. What was going on in the post-Second World War period behind the iron curtain was conceived as a potential threat to the war-ravaged nations of Western Europe. Moscow retaliated with Warsaw Pact thus giving rise to the political and ideological confrontation between the two blocs which was intensified and spilled over to the rest of the world; each bloc recruiting allies and supporters which continued throughout the Cold War era. With the collapse of Communism in Russia, the Warsaw Pact disintegrated and the perceived or real challenges to the "New World Order" and we were given the impression that the period of confrontation was over and a new era of cooperation had begun. It would have by the very logic of its establishment, put an end to NATO. But that did not happen. On the contrary, NATO was not only retained and strengthened, a plan was devised to extend this idea far and beyond the frontiers of Europe.

The question is who is the enemy this time and against whom are the bells of this fraternity chiming? The western demagogues have identified Islam and China as the two irritants with whom the clash is imminent. The Muslim world, after an effective dose of colonialism, is awakening to the new realities and those collaborators who had been living under the spell of Western prism are either clearly seeing the true colours of the western mind or are finding it difficult to keep their people tied to the western knot. After trying the magic wands of Tel Aviv, Cairo and Casablanca which did open the barriers but not to the full satisfaction of Washington, now the shadow of NATO will be cast over them. It will kill two birds with one stone: Western sponsored and monitored military bases will be used to strengthen the hands of "our guys" in crushing the movements for democracy and real sovereignty; it will also serve the purpose of ascertaining the defence capabilities of these nations. The new frontiers of NATO will not be located on the

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borders of these countries but inside their territories with the so-called fundamentalism and nuclear installations as the major concerns of the Western masterminds.

This grand plan will not be debated either by the NATO members or even by the bruised Russian bear because Bosnia continues to show the horrors of the European self-image and Chechnya has become a nightmare for Moscow. The reawakening of the Middle East is disrupting the smooth lines of the Zionist view of the peace process. And if the Perry formula of joint military exercises between India and Pakistan fails, the American strategists would have no problem in readjusting Pakistan as a Middle East country on the old pattern of CENTO [Central Treaty Organization]. With such a formidable bloc, China would be totally isolated and marked as the next frontier.

We have been constantly reminding our readers that the United States' present status, if it remains unchallenged for some time, is fraught with such horrors that previous bondages of Asia and Africa would pale into insignificance. The Americans know that their supremacy in today's world is short-lived and they are aware of the dialectics of history where no challenge escapes response. They would be challenged but before that moment arrives, they want to make sure that their glory is prolonged and all possible sources of future conflict and challenge are suppressed right now. The lengthening shadows of NATO are aimed to achieve this goal; the talk of mutual security and human development are nothing more than rubbish. Asian and African countries in general and the Muslim world in particular have to be vigilant and cautious. There are alternatives in the form of regional blocs with close coordination with China otherwise history will accuse us again of fighting another American war at the expense of our freedom, sovereignty and the other costs in lives which could be phenomenal.

Editorial: Western 'Myopia' Over Fundamentalism

BK1002142495 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Feb 95 p 15

[Editorial: "NATO's illusory threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATO, once geared exclusively to meeting the threat from the East, has now begun to look southwards at what it perceives as a threat from 'fundamentalist' Islam. As part of this new approach, NATO ambassadors on February 8 agreed to initiate contacts with five North African countries—Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Israel and Mauritania—with a view to contributing "to the peace and stability of the Mediterranean as a whole." This decision comes in the wake of several statements in recent weeks by NATO Secretary-General, Mr Willy Claes, stressing the new dangers facing the West from Islamic 'fundamentalism' which in a newspaper interview, he has described as "one of the most important challenges facing the West after the end of the cold war."

Reduced to its essentials this threat, in the worlds of NATO officials, is of a two-fold character. First, it relates to the fear that if nuclear weapons fall into the hands of a 'rogue' government, Europe could be threatened by nuclear blackmail. Second, it flows from the perception that if the Mediterranean rim is racked by unrest, Europe would be affected by the fallout, whether in the form of a refugee influx or such acts of terrorism as the recent hijacking of an airliner which was later flown to France.

There may be a point to these fears but in not understanding the causes which lie behind the rise of what the West likes to call Islamic fundamentalism, there is also a great deal of myopia at work. The three places on the Mediterranean rim where the so-called fundamentalist unrest is most marked are Algeria, Egypt and occupied Palestine. In all these centres of turbulence Islam is the only available vehicle for the expression of mass discontent. In Algeria the military government, supported by most of the western powers, has stifled democracy by aborting the electoral process in which the Islamic Front was expected to emerge as the winner. In Egypt there is a western-backed government which is neither attending to the problems of backwardness which plague the country nor allowing even the rudiments of democracy to take root. In occupied Palestine the accords between Israel and the PLO which have been brokered by the West stands discredited in the eyes of ordinary Palestinians. It is this fact which lies behind the militancy of such organisations as Hamas and Al-Jihad. Now if the West or, more specifically, NATO is concerned about the spill-over effects of this unrest, it should address not its symptoms but its underlying causes. In all three places the possibility of exercising the popular will is effectively foreclosed by their present dispensations. Hence, willy-nilly, a divergence of opinion which should have been the function of justice and democracy is being expressed through the barrel of a gun. So where does the blame lie? On the militants who are beginning to cause sleepless nights to NATO's latter-day planners or the conditions which have lent such a sharp edge to their discontent?

On the southern rim of the Mediterranean it is not Europe across the waters which is under any sort of threat from 'fundamentalist' Islam but rather the status quo. The West of course has a legitimate interest in Middle Eastern stability but it also must understand that if the status quo comes under domestic attack in the countries around the Mediterranean, it is a conflict which is for the concerned countries to resolve. If NATO or the western powers have any role in this developing crisis, it is to encourage the forces of democracy and to push the Israelis towards a juster deal with the Palestinians. Since it is capable of doing neither, it does not have much of a moral leg to stand upon when it denounces Islamic 'fundamentalism'. NATO should also take a look at what it has failed to do in Bosnia. The moral cowardice it has displayed in that conflict should teach it some humility. Instead of which it is creating a new justification for its continued existence by pointing to a

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chimerical danger the heatedness of its own imagination is in no small way responsible for magnifying.

Minister Briefs Assembly on Investments, Reserves

BK0902123295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly was informed today that 50 foreign companies made direct investment in Pakistan in 1993, while 127 companies made joint venture investments. The minister of state for finance, Makhdum Shahabuddin, who was answering a question by Chaudhary Jafar Iqbal, said the government believes in deregulation, and all hurdles in investment have been removed.

To a question by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, he said the foreign exchange reserves by the end of December last amounted to about $2,900 million. The overseas Pakistanis remitted about $1.5 billion during 1993-94.

To a question by Mian Mohammad Munir, the house was told that over 19 billion rupees were received for the first tranche of PTC [Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation] vouchers. For the second tranche of PTC vouchers, $862 million were received.

The house was informed about several measures to control prices. These included tightening of monetary policy and restricting deficit financing, liberal releases of essential commodities, including wheat, removal of import duty and sales tax on certain items.

Official Rejects Indian Claims About Seismic Station

BK0902151795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has dismissed Indian propaganda that a seismic detection station has been set up in Pakistan with American assistance to detect the nuclear test conducted by India. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the station has been set up by Pakistan and is manned by Pakistani experts and will continue to be run in the same pattern. We can detect the nuclear test but it has not been targeted against China or Iran as being propagated. The spokesman said the establishment of this station is according to the International Seismic Monitoring System which is supported by China and we hope Iran would also support it.

In reply to a question on NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], the spokesman said Pakistan is not satisfied with the treaty as it was discriminatory. There is no provision in it for the security of nonnuclear-weapon states against the nuclear threat.

[Begin spokesman recording] The idea is that the whole world should be covered so that any seismic event—whether it is an earthquake or whether it is a man-made seismic event, it is a nuclear explosion, which can be detected, and thus the purpose. If the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty comes into force, I see it probable in the near future, then it will be necessary to have this global network of seismic stations and this is (?where) we are cooperating. [end recording]

Nuclear Explosion Monitoring System Installed

BK0902133495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—In order to detect nuclear test explosions in Pakistan and its surrounding countries, an international seismic system has been installed at Chakwal, a Foreign Office source confirmed while talking to THE NATION.

The system known as International Seismic Monitoring System has started operation. The source said that the said system is part of an agreement to monitor the nuclear test explosions under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The source further disclosed that the system installed at Chakwal is being run by the Pakistani experts and there is no foreign personnel present at the facility.

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan for the last 30 years has been advocating ban on nuclear test explosions and has time and again stressed that both Pakistan and India sign the Treaty. The majority of non-aligned countries also support this positive proposal, the source added.

Replying to a question the Foreign Office source said, if India conducted an atomic test; this system would be able to detect it. When asked that this system has been installed to monitor the nuclear programme of a neighbouring Islamic country, the source said, "in our view there is no possibility that Iran would explode a nuclear test device."

When asked the system has been installed by America, the source clarified that the system has been set-up according to an international agreement and many countries besides USA have contributed to its installation. [sentence as published]

The foreign office source said that to operate the seismic system Pakistani experts were trained at Geneva. The source further said that a Pakistani organisation is supervising the operation of the system.

Meanwhile, a diplomatic source revealed that US Secretary of State, William Perry, during his visit to India, told Indian authorities that such a system has been installed in Pakistan.

After the installation of the said seismic system, it is being apprehended that through this system nuclear programmes of Pakistan and those of other countries are being watched over and monitored. The installation of the said system, however, has clearly determined that Pakistan has joined CTBT.

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Government Urged Not To Rush Talks With India

BK0802044295 Lahore JANG in Urdu 6 Feb 95 p 14

[Editorial: "The Willingness of India and Pakistan for Bilateral Talks?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report in the esteemed magazine FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW says that due to constant U.S. pressure, Pakistan and India have expressed their willingness to resolve their long-standing disputes through negotiations. According to this magazine, a meeting of the foreign secretaries of the two countries is expected in April this year. The report says that India has expressed its willingness for talks on all the proposals and issues put up by Pakistan. Kashmir is on top of the agenda. Meanwhile, India has also expressed its readiness to discuss the informal documents submitted by Pakistan, which stress the need for resolving the Kashmir dispute through a plebiscite in the light of the UN resolutions.

Although Indian Foreign Secretary Srinivasan gave an indication a few days ago that India is ready to hold talks on the two informal documents submitted by Pakistan, it is not possible to say with confidence to what extent the report in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW holds true. However, if India has really expressed its willingness to hold talks on the above topics, we can express our satisfaction over the report. Nevertheless, we would like to tell the Government of Pakistan that in view of India's past record, Pakistan should think several times before expressing any readiness for bilateral talks. On earlier occasions, despite expressing its readiness to hold talks on the Kashmir issue, India's stance on the negotiating table was that occupied Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the only issue to be discussed is that of Pakistan's illegal occupation of Azad Kashmir. India has put up this sort of argument on several occasions, thereby impeding the process of negotiations. In her speech broadcast to the nation, while referring to her visit to Cyprus, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that India had sent a message to Pakistan on that occasion through the mediation of certain friendly countries, saying that if Islamabad would withdraw its resolution on Kashmir from the UN General Assembly, New Delhi was ready to hold talks on the Kashmir issue as a separate item of the agenda. Pakistan once again trusted India and, at the beginning of January 1994, foreign secretary-level talks were held between the two countries in Islamabad. However, the outcome was a return to square one. India did not budge even an inch from its usual stance and the talks ended in failure. In her speech, the prime minister rightly said that India invites us to talks but refuses to discuss our proposals. What is left then for talks? If India really wants to reduce tension between the two countries, it should enter into a serious dialogue to remove the root cause of the tension. This time, the Government of Pakistan should not express its willingness for bilateral talks in haste. Pakistan should insist on the fulfillment of its demand for the creation of a conducive atmosphere for talks. It should insist that India make a discernible and conspicuous reduction of its 600,000 troops deployed in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan should also demand that the freedom fighters lodged in the prisons of occupied Kashmir and other parts of India must be released. Similarly, other steps should be taken to create a cordial atmosphere. Until India gets ready to fulfill these conditions, Pakistan should not be ready for another round of bilateral talks at the mere request of friends. However, it will be most appropriate if Pakistan makes a demand that the friendly countries, including the United States, who are urging us to hold direct talks with India, should take part in these talks as observers so that they will be able to see who is serious in resolving the issue and holding meaningful talks. In the presence of these observers, if India maintains its old posture and refuses to discuss the basic issues underlying the Kashmir dispute, the entire world will know who is not interested in holding meaningful talks. Due to India's past tendencies, Pakistan is constrained to adopt a posture that until a third party participates in the talks as an arbitrator or an observer, no serious dialogue can be expected. We should be steadfast in this stance. We should definitely express our willingness for talks, but only after the fulfillment of certain conditions, since the holding of another round of meaningless talks will not in any way be in our interest. This would send a wrong message to Kashmiris as well as world public opinion and provide an opportunity to India to gain more time, which we should not allow.

Nawaz Sharif's Party MP Sentenced to 7 Years

BK0902161495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special court for suppression of terrorist activities in Rawalpindi today sentenced Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, MNA [member of National Assembly], Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, to seven year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 2 lakh rupees in the Klashnikov case against him. In case of default of fine, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad will have to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for another two years.

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